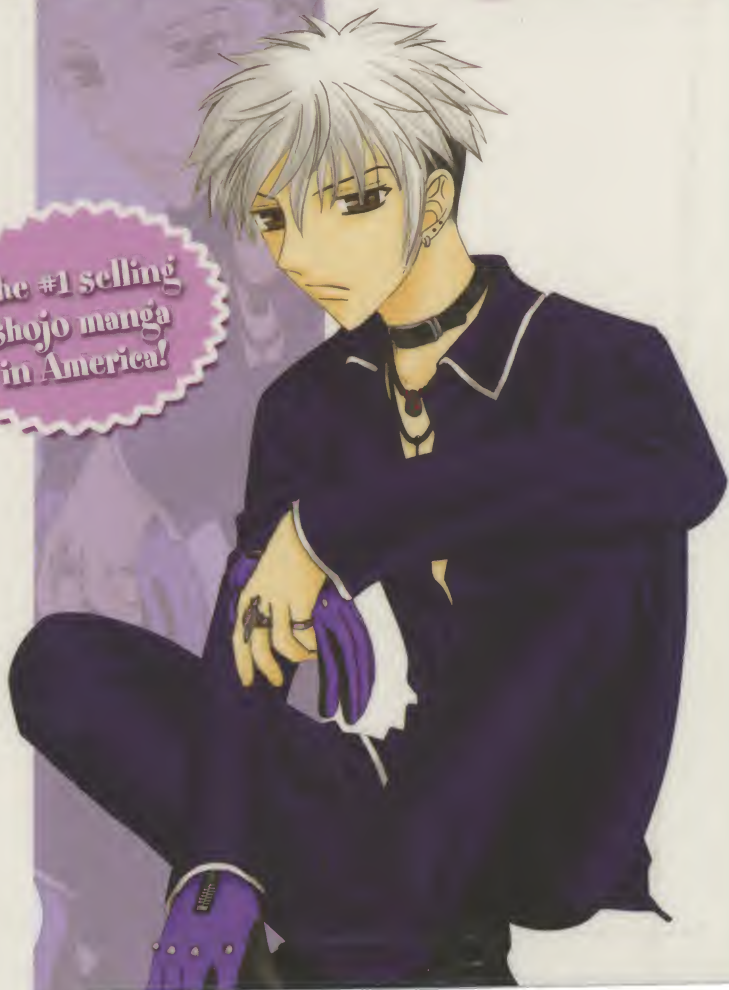


# Fruits Basket™

© TOKYOPOP

The #1 selling  
shojo manga  
in America!



8

Shojo manga

# Fruits Basket™

Volume 8



Natsuki Takaya

# Fruits Basket™

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# STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!





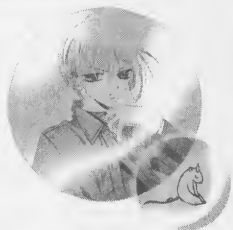


## Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

## Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school he's called "Prince Yuki."



## Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

## Mabudachi Trio

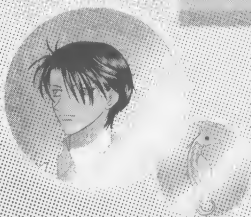
### Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.



### Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.

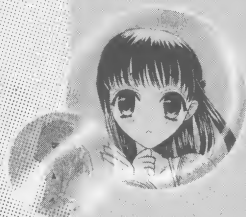


### Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.



# Fruits Basket Characters

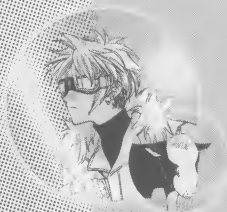


## Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.

## Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks.  
Mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse.



## Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black."  
Then you'd better watch out.

## Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets.  
Treated with fear and reverence.



## Tohru's Best Friends

## Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves."  
Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

## Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.

## Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.





# Fruits Basket™

## Chapter 43



Filler  
Sketch



*Shigure-san—even his teasing of Mitchan must be in moderation.*



## ULTRA-SPECIAL BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 1

Aaargh! I keep thinking I want to change the title of this section, but before I knew it, it had gotten to the twentieth volume.

It's long... It's too long, this title...



THINGS ARE  
TERRIBLE  
HERE, TOO.

HUH?

\*Book: 100 Good Restaurants in Kyoto and Nara



KYOTO AND  
NARA!

PRETTY  
STANDARD.

IT IS  
STANDARD  
...



WE WERE  
TALKING ABOUT  
WHAT OUR  
GROUPS SHOULD  
DO ON OUR  
CLASS TRIP.

EH?!

YOU KNOW  
WHERE YOU'RE  
GOING?! WHERE,  
WHERE?!



PERHAPS  
IF YOU PAY  
YOUR OWN  
WAY, PEOPLE  
WOULDN'T  
MIND...

LUCKY!

I WANNA  
GO, TOO!





UH-OH.  
WHAT'S KYO  
MAD ABOUT  
THIS TIME?

HE SAYS HE  
DOESN'T LIKE  
THE WAY THE  
GROUPS ARE  
SHAPING UP.

OH, SO HE'S  
WITH YUKI?

**CUT IT  
OUT!!**

**I'LL PAY  
MY OWN  
WAY!!**



Ukyaaah!



BESIDES, I  
DON'T HAVE  
TO STAY  
WITH THE  
GROUP!!

THAT'S TRUE,  
BUT IT'S MORE  
FUN WITH YOU  
THERE.

THAT WAY  
I CAN MESS  
WITH YOU.

WHAT AM I,  
YOUR TOY?



THERE'S NO  
WAY I'LL  
GO ALONG  
WITH THIS!!

STOP TRYING TO  
STICK ME WITH  
THAT DAMN YUKI!  
ALL THE TIME!!





KYO, YOU  
DUMMKOPF!!

AAGHH!  
DAMMIT, NOW  
I DEFINITELY  
REFUSE!

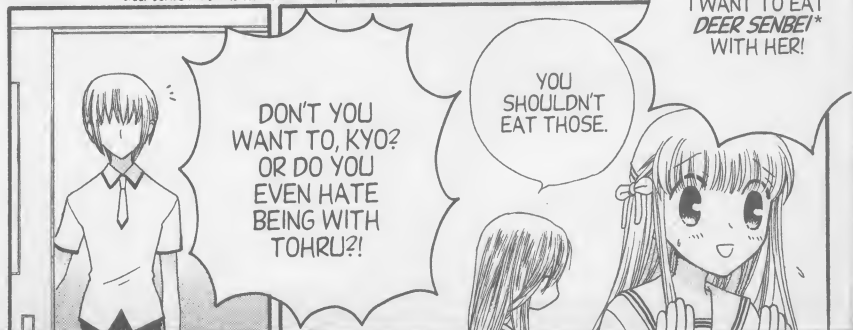
YOU GET TO GO  
WITH TOHRU.  
YOU SHOULDN'T  
BE SO SELFISH!!



HEY...

I WISH  
/ COULD  
GO WITH  
TOHRU!

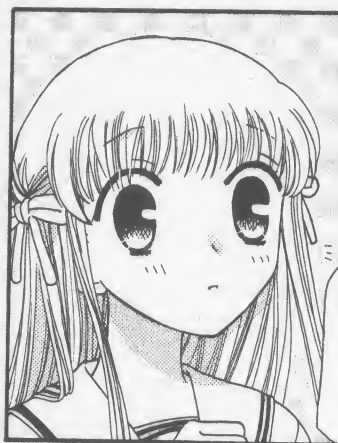
\*deer senbei: biscuits for deer. Nora's parks are famous for the deer that visitors can feed.



DON'T YOU  
WANT TO, KYO?  
OR DO YOU  
EVEN HATE  
BEING WITH  
TOHRU?!

YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
EAT THOSE.

I WANT TO EAT  
DEER SENBEI\*  
WITH HER!



OF  
COURSE  
I DON'T...



STU-



ARGH! FOR  
CRYING OUT  
LOUD--! YOU  
GUYS ALWAYS  
MESS WITH ME  
LIKE THAT!

"OF  
COURSE"?

... "OF  
COURSE"?

"OF  
COURSE"?

It's  
love, all  
right.

Hell  
no!



Oh!

IT'S YUKI!



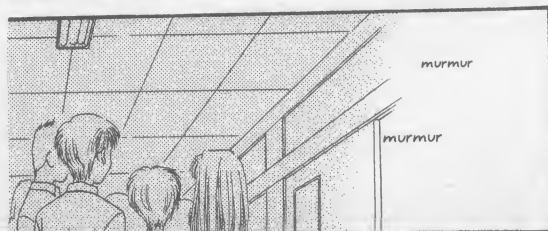
—  
...  
!



OH YES, MOMIJI-KUN...

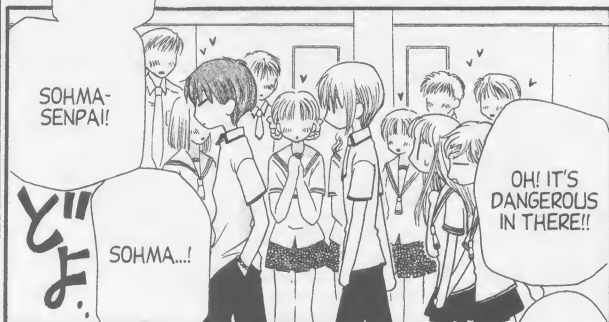
...WEREN'T YOU SAYING THAT SOMETHING IS TERRIBLE?

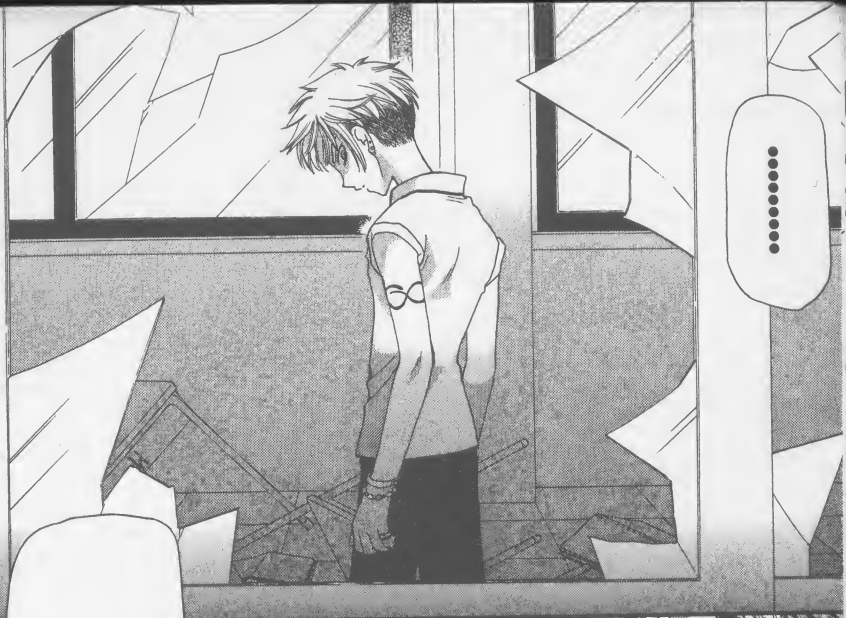
AH!



**Fruits Basket 8:  
Part 1**

Hajimemashite  
and konnichiwa!  
It's Takaya  
again. We're  
up to volume 8.  
This makes the  
twentieth manga  
volume by me (in  
Japan, at least).  
Woo-hoo! Clap  
clap! And  
decorating the  
cover of this  
momentous  
20th volume is  
Hatsuharu. And  
the reason is... it's  
just his turn (To  
put it frankly).  
Haru is one of the  
kids who is really  
easy to draw.  
His personality  
comes out so well.  
And with that,  
please, enjoy  
Furuba volume 8!





WHAT  
?!

キロッ





WHAT'LL  
WE DO?

HATSU-  
HARU-SAN...

IT'S BEEN  
A LONG  
TIME...

...SINCE HE'S  
REALLY  
BEEN BLACK.

EH?!

Then what about the  
other times he was  
Black-san?

CUT  
THE CRAP,  
HARU.

WHEN YOU  
GET VIOLENT,  
IT JUST  
CAUSES ME  
PROBLEMS.

SHUT  
THE HELL UP,  
STUPID CAT!  
YOUR EXISTENCE  
CAUSES  
PROBLEMS,  
STUPID CAT.

IF YOU  
WANT TO  
STOP ME...

WHAT  
DOES IT  
LOOK LIKE?

TEARING  
THE PLACE  
APART.

...YOU'RE  
GONNA HAVE  
TO COME  
AT ME LIKE  
YOU'RE READY  
TO KILL ME!





YOU WANNA  
LIVE YOUR  
LIFE SCARED  
OF BEING  
RATTED  
OUT?

SCREW THAT!  
I'D RATHER  
LET EVERY-  
ONE KNOW  
EVERYTHING!!

STUPID,  
STUPID!

YOU'RE SO  
STUPID!

YOU  
AGREE  
WITH  
ME...

...DON'T  
YOU?

HATSU--

HEY!

!!





I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT MADE  
YOU SNAP...

...BUT DON'T  
GET TOHRU  
INVOLVED...



...WITH  
YOUR STUPID  
PROBLEMS.



I KNOW YOUR  
GAME, STUPID  
CAT. DAMN  
SHOWOFF.



I'M NOT,  
MORON.

WHY STOP  
WITH THE  
NECK?

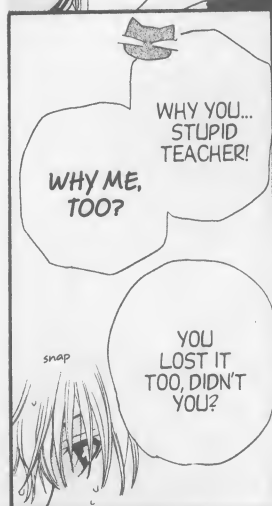
I'LL BREAK  
EVERY BONE  
IN YOUR BODY,  
DAMN KID!

YEAH YOU ARE.  
YOU WANT TO  
LOOK COOL,  
'SPECIALLY  
IN FRONT OF  
HER!

KYO-KUN,  
HATSU HARU-  
SAN....!!

WHAT? YOU  
WANNA BREAK  
MY NECK?!

Well  
?!



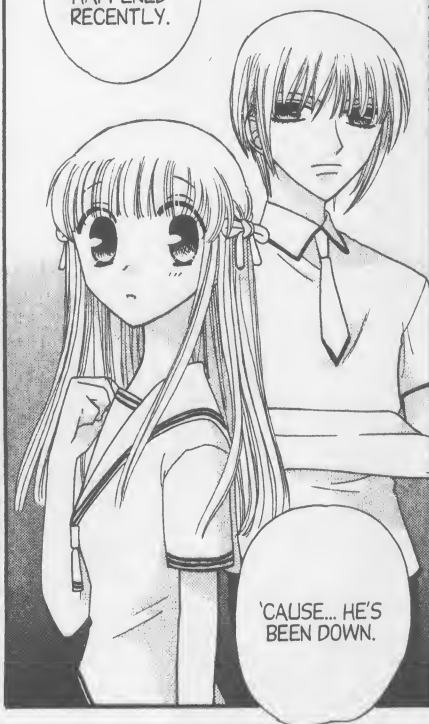
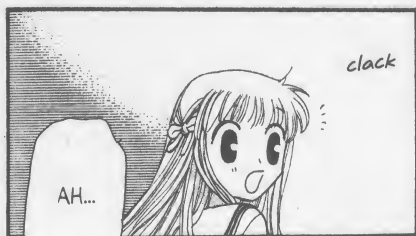


\*Sign: Faculty Room



MOMIJI?

MMM... WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS WATCHING HIM THE WHOLE TIME.







FORGET HIM.

I'M GOING HOME, TOO. I'M GONNA BE LATE GETTING TO THE DOJO.

YUKI'S SO RESPONSIBLE ...



HONDA-SAN, I'M SORRY.

WILL YOU GO HOME WITHOUT ME?

AH...



...WORRIES ME...

HEY, YOU...

NEXT TIME HARU TURNS BLACK, STAY AWAY FROM HIM!



"MAYBE SOMETHING HAPPENED."

BUT SOMETHING ...



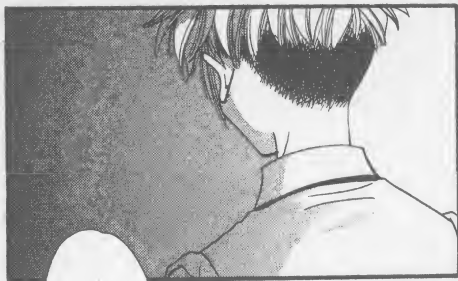
YES ...

YOU'RE RIGHT...





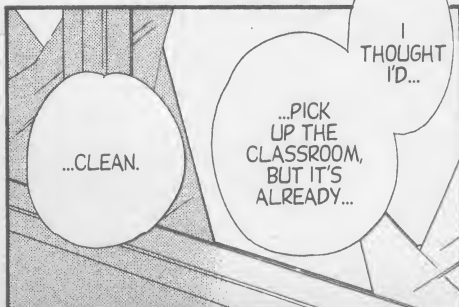




HARU...



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?



...CLEAN.

...PICK  
UP THE  
CLASSROOM,  
BUT IT'S  
ALREADY...

I  
THOUGHT  
I'D...



ANYWAY,  
HARU...

...YOU--

YUKI.

I GUESS  
FAIRIES  
REALLY DO  
EXIST.

*A mystery...*

...OR  
NOT.

*The  
girls in  
the class  
cleaned  
it up.*

YOU  
KNOW, YOU  
REALLY  
COULD...

...JUST  
CALL HER  
"TOHRU."





DON'T  
START!

...IS YOU,  
HARU!!

...WHAT WE  
SHOULD  
BE WOR-  
RIED ABOUT  
MOST...

THIS ISN'T  
ABOUT ME!

RIGHT  
NOW...

OH,  
HARU...  
YOU...

YOU'RE  
ALWAYS  
WORRYING...

...ABOUT  
EVERYONE  
ELSE.

.....  
!

.....

I CAN'T  
STAND IT.

EVEN  
NOW, I'M  
KEEPING  
A LID  
ON THE  
FEELINGS  
I DON'T  
WANT TO  
ADMIT I  
HAVE.

HMM  
...?

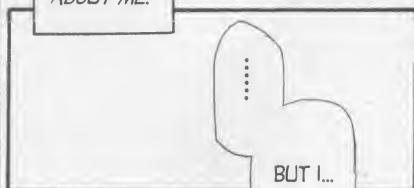
SO  
YOU...

...ONLY  
CARE ABOUT  
YOURSELF,  
HUH?



EVEN  
THOUGH  
HARU HAS  
A LOT TO  
DEAL WITH  
RIGHT NOW  
...

...HE STILL  
CAN'T HELP  
BUT BE  
CONCERNED  
ABOUT ME.



...  
BUT I...



I...

I ONLY  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
MYSELF.



SEE?

THANK  
YOU.

THAT'S  
FUNNY.

YOU  
WOULDN'T  
THINK SOME-  
ONE SO SELF-  
ABSORBED...

...WOULD  
COME TO  
CHECK UP  
ON ME.



.....

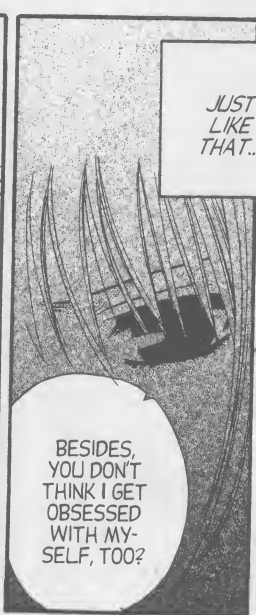
...I TURN  
BLACK AND  
TEAR THINGS  
APART?

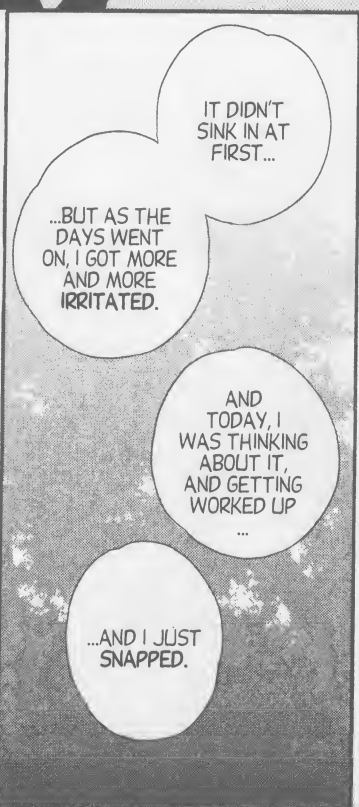
WHY  
ELSE  
DO YOU  
THINK...



JUST  
LIKE  
THAT...

BESIDES,  
YOU DON'T  
THINK I GET  
OBSESSED  
WITH MY-  
SELF, TOO?







AT FIRST  
I'D GO TO SEE  
HER AT THE  
SICKROOM,  
AND WE'D  
SNEAK OUT  
TOGETHER.

BUT LATELY...  
I JUST COULDN'T  
TELL WHAT SHE  
WAS THINKING.

SHE GOT  
HURT BAD...  
AND SHE'S  
CHANGED.

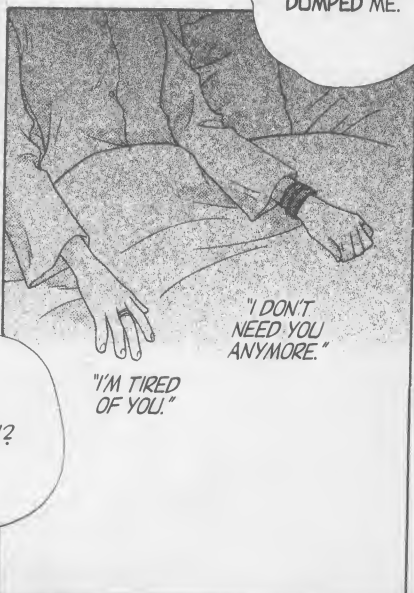


AND  
SUDDENLY SHE  
DUMPED ME.

WHY?

WHY DO I  
STILL...

...WHY?



"I DON'T  
NEED YOU  
ANYMORE."

"I'M TIRED  
OF YOU."





...OF  
NEEDING  
HER.

...WANT TO  
SEE HER SO  
BADLY?

.....  
WHAT  
ARE  
YOU...

IT'S NOT LIKE  
I CAN EASILY  
GIVE UP...

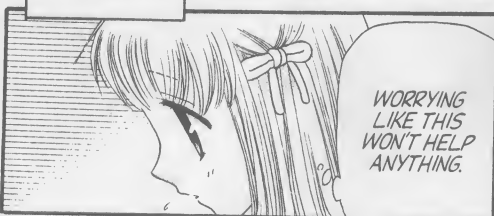
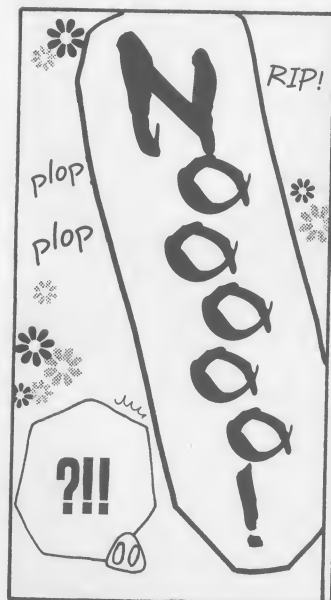
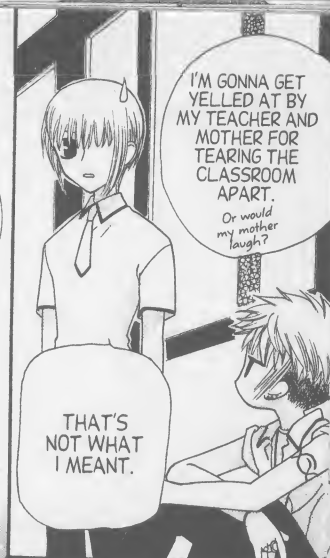
...THE  
FEELINGS...

...GOING  
TO DO  
NOW?





WHAT  
WILL I  
DO...?





OH NO!

UM...  
PLEASE  
LET ME  
HELP!

Eh  
?!

N-NO, I  
COULDN'T  
IMPOSE ON  
SOMEONE  
I'VE NEVER  
MET!

NO, PEOPLE  
NEED TO  
HELP EACH  
OTHER WHEN  
THEY'RE IN  
TROUBLE.



MY BAG...

THE BOTTOM  
OF MY BAG  
FELL OUT!

!



AHH  
I'M SORRY!  
I APOLOGIZE  
TO THE ENTIRE  
WORLD! I'M  
SORRY FOR  
MAKING  
A VISIT!!

WEE!



I KNOW! EVEN JUST MY  
BREATHING IS INEXCUSABLE.  
WHAT WAS I THINKING,  
TRYING TO IMPOSE MYSELF  
ON SOMEONE ELSE WITH A  
VISIT? THE BOTTOM OF MY  
BAG FALLING OUT IS A FITTING  
PUNISHMENT FOR ONE AS  
SHAMEFUL AS ME!



I'M SORRY!  
I'M SORRY! ALL  
I EVER DO...

...IS CAUSE  
TROUBLE  
FOR THE  
PEOPLE  
AROUND ME!



RITCHAN-  
SAN?!

twitch

?!

.....  
?!

OH NOOOOOO!  
SOMEONE I'VE  
NEVER SEEN  
BEFORE KNOWS  
MY NAME!

UH.  
UM...

I WAS LIVING  
CARELESSLY, NOT  
KNOWING THAT THE  
INFAMY OF MY NAME  
WAS A BURDEN TO  
SO MANY PEOPLE! I'M  
SORRY! I'M SORRY FOR  
ALL THE PEOPLE WHO  
ARE CURSED TO ENDURE  
SHARING MY PITIFUL  
NAME!

I'MMM  
SORRRYYY!!

## Chapter 44





**UL-SPE I'LL ABBREVIATE IT AT LEAST!  
BLAH BLAH BLAH 2**

Now that Ritsu has shown up, there are very few members of the Zodiac left. But Ritchan sure is energetic... (laugh).

I'm touched  
that I can  
meet you,  
Ritchan-san!

The name's  
stuck.

Ritchan-  
san?

stare???

That's  
right!

OKAMI-  
SAN'S  
DAUGHTER!\*

THE YEAR  
OF THE  
MONKEY,  
RITCHAN-  
SAN.

OH NO!

IT WAS NO  
TROUBLE  
AT ALL!

I FINALLY  
GET TO  
MEET HER...  
AND SHE'S A  
WOMAN!

\*For details, see volume 3

YUP.

I'M  
SORRY! AM  
I BOTHERING  
YOU?!

EH?!

EH...?

BUT TO  
WHAT DO WE  
OWE THIS  
UNEXPECTED  
SURPRISE?



JUST  
KIDDING!

NO, NO.  
SERIOUSLY,  
I WAS  
JOKING.

hee hee  
hee

!!!

...AND MY  
MOTHER  
TOLD ME  
I SHOULD  
GO TO SEE  
HER...

I HEARD THAT  
ALMOST ALL OF  
THE MEMBERS  
OF THE ZODIAC  
HAD MET  
TOHRU-SAN...

...SO I  
THOUGHT IN  
THAT CASE  
IT MIGHT BE  
RUDE NOT TO  
SEE HER, AND  
SO HERE I AM.

AS  
USUAL, YOU  
SHARE YOUR  
MOTHER'S  
TRAIT OF  
JUMPING INTO  
A PANIC.

YOU'LL  
BE GOING OUT  
INTO THE REAL  
WORLD SOON.  
IT'S TIME  
YOU GET IT  
TOGETHER.

SHE'S SO  
MUCH LIKE  
HER MOTHER, I  
KNEW IT WAS  
RITCHAN-SAN!

YES... I'M  
SORRY...

doki  
doki

Y-YES,  
THAT IS...

Well...

WELL?  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
HERE?





AH...  
OH YES,  
HERE...

IT'S  
REALLY  
JUST A  
TRIFLE.

WHAT  
IS IT? A  
PRESENT?!

YES. THEY  
FELL ON THE  
GROUND--  
I HOPE  
THEY'RE  
OKAY...

*plop*



OH NO, THE  
PLEASURE  
IS ALL MINE.  
I AM TOHRU  
HONDA!

THANK  
YOU FOR  
TREATING  
MY MOTHER  
SO KINDLY  
BACK THEN.

I'M SORRY.  
PLEASED TO  
MEET YOU.  
I AM RITSU  
SOHMA.

...EH?

EH? EH?! I'M  
SORRY. IT WAS  
A STUPID IDEA,  
WASN'T IT? DID  
I OFFEND YOU?

WELL...  
YES.

YES  
YOU DID.

...SO  
I BROUGHT  
BOOKS ABOUT  
FRUIT...

I THOUGHT  
I WOULD BRING  
FRUIT, BUT I  
DIDN'T KNOW  
WHAT YOU'D  
LIKE...



NO!



hee hee

I KID, I KID.



I'M SORRY!

I'M SORRY!

I'M SORRY!

I'LL GET SOME FRUIT RIGHT AWAY!



I'VE REALLY WANTED TO MEET YOU, RITCHAN-SAN.

SO YOUR COMING TO VISIT ME LIKE THIS...

...MAKES ME REALLY REALLY HAPPY!



sob  
sob  
sob

IT'S ALL RIGHT. PLEASE JUST SAY IT.

TELL ME I'M NOT WORTHY OF VISITING THIS HOUSE!

sob

THAT'S NOT TRUE!

Yay! New books!

HE'S RIGHT!



WOW...

SHE'S  
EVEN MORE  
BEAUTIFUL  
WHEN SHE  
SMILES.



THANK YOU  
SO MUCH.

I'M SURE  
THAT THE  
OTHER  
TWO ARE  
BEAUTIFUL  
TOO, EVEN  
IF THEY  
ARE MEN.

TOHRU-  
KUN,  
TOHRU-  
KUN.

BECAUSE  
YOU'RE ONE  
OF THE FEW  
WOMEN,  
RITCHAN-SAN.

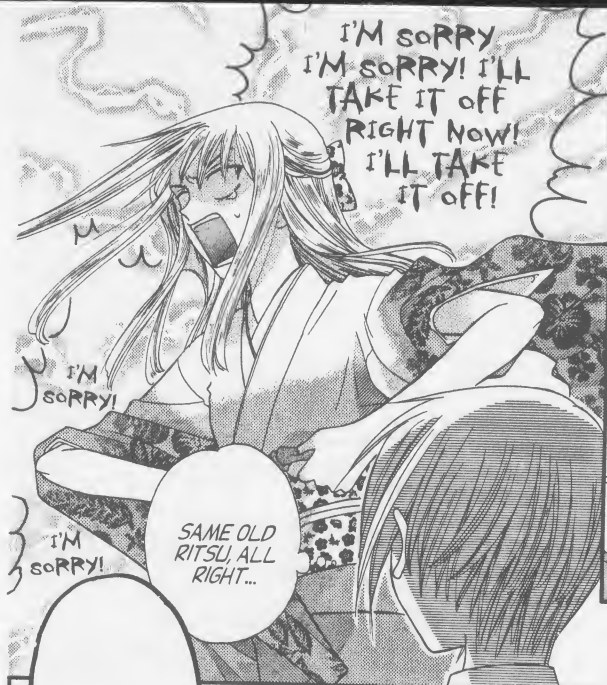
...SO THIS  
MEANS  
THEY'RE  
BOTH MEN,  
RIGHT?

I STILL  
HAVEN'T  
MET HORSE-  
SAN OR  
ROOSTER-  
SAN...

Um,  
let's  
see...







I'M SORRY  
I'M SORRY! I'LL  
TAKE IT OFF  
RIGHT NOW!  
I'LL TAKE  
IT OFF!

I'M  
SORRY!

I'M  
SORRY!

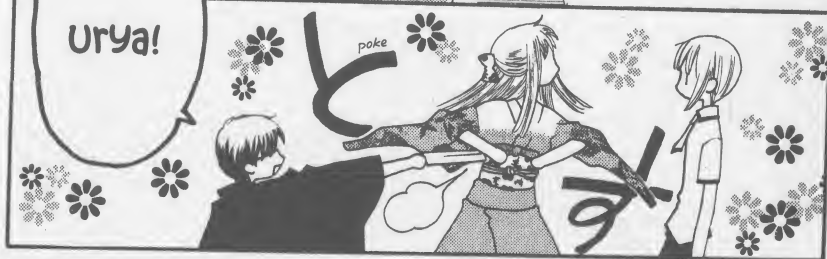
SAME OLD  
RITSU, ALL  
RIGHT...

Urya!



YOU'RE THE  
SAME AS  
ALWAYS...

...RITSU.



poke



But, hey!

SINCE RITCHAN  
WENT TO ALL  
THE TROUBLE  
OF BEING  
BRAVE AND  
SHOWING UP...

IT'S  
NOT LIKE  
I WAS  
GOING TO  
BE MEAN.

...BE NICE  
TO HIM,  
YUKI-KUN.



AS AN OLD WISE MAN  
ONCE SAID, "WHEN  
RITCHAN GETS OUT OF  
CONTROL, WITHOUT  
PANICKING OR MAKING A  
FUSS, PUSH HIS SIDE."

Sigh...

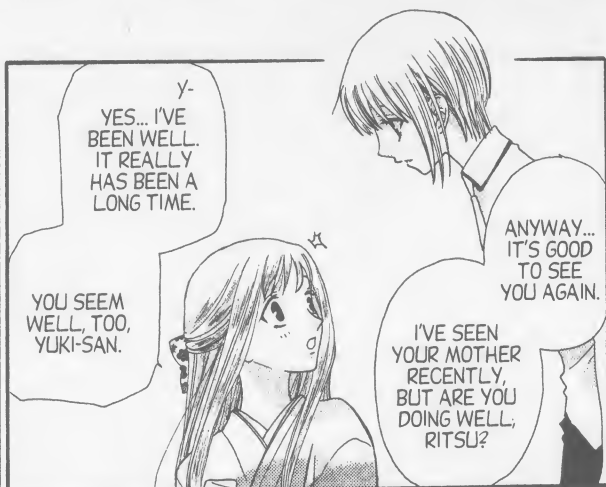
Fruits Basket 8:  
Part 2

My handwriting in volume seven is really, really small. A friend of mine teased me about it. but then, I tease myself about it.

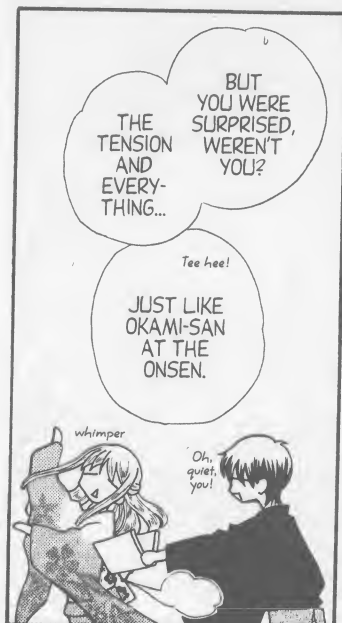


It seems it's still hard for me to write bigger since the surgery. I feel like my writing was never that big to begin with. Even signing my name, my handwriting gets smaller as time goes on.

This time I'm writing bigger! or am I...?







THE TENSION AND EVERYTHING...

BUT YOU WERE SURPRISED, WEREN'T YOU?

Tee hee!

JUST LIKE OKAMI-SAN AT THE ONSEN.

whimper

Oh, quiet, you!

You're not playing with a geisha.



WAAAAH!

WELCOME HOME, YUKI-KUN!

THANKS, SO I GUESS YOU KNOW RITSU'S HERE.

YES! I'M SO HAPPY I COULD MEET HER!



I'M NOT SURE...

...



OH!

YUKI-KUN... IS HATSU-HARU-SAN...

...ALL RIGHT?



...THROUGH  
A LOT.

IT REALLY  
ALL DEPENDS  
ON HARU...  
I GUESS.

HE'S  
FIGHTING  
...

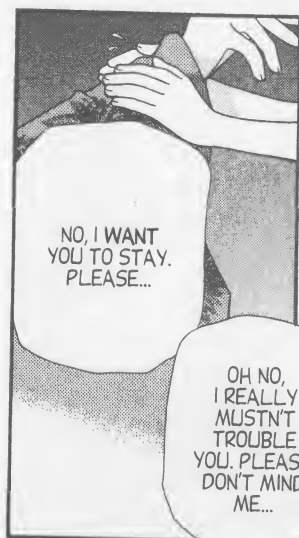
SO AM I...

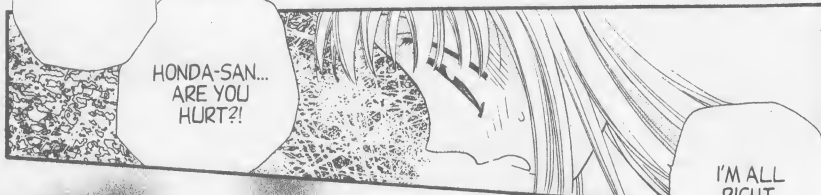


IT'S ALL  
RIGHT.



FIGHT...  
ING?





Something  
broke again?

I'M SORRY,  
I'M SORRY!  
THAT SOMEONE  
SUCH AS MY-  
SELF WOULD  
INTRUDE INTO  
YOUR HOME,  
IT'S UNFORGIV-  
ABLE!

This is a shojo manga.

I  
APOLOGIZE!  
I  
APOLOGIZE  
TO THE  
ENTIRE  
WORLD!!

RITCHAN-  
SAN, THE  
GLASS!  
LOOK OUT!

ひっく



poof

!!

plop  
ㇿㇿ

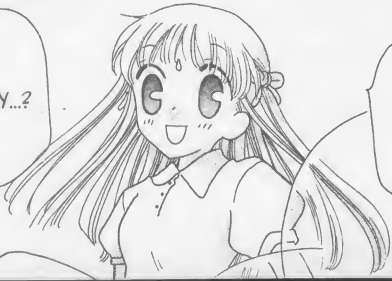
?!

HUH?

BUT...  
SHE'S A  
WOMAN:

WHY...?

H-HUH...?





HUH?

!!

YOU'RE...



SO WHY DID SHE...



...TRANS-  
FORM?

YOU'RE  
BLEEDING!!

HONDA-  
SAN!

HUH...?

YES,  
THAT'S  
RIGHT.



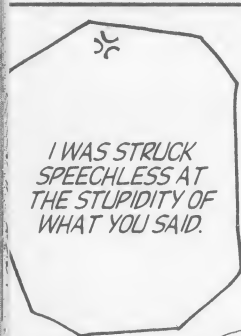


COULD IT  
BE... YOU'RE  
SECRETLY  
LOVEY-DOVEY  
WITH TOHRU-  
KUN?

OH? WHAT  
IS THIS, HAA-  
SAN? YOU'RE  
ACTUALLY  
LISTENING TO  
MY REQUEST  
WITHOUT  
COMPLAINING  
AT ALL?

IF IT'S ALL  
RIGHT, I'LL  
BE THERE  
LATER  
TONIGHT.

TOHRU TOOK  
A LITTLE SPILL.  
WHEN YOU GET  
A CHANCE, COME  
TAKE A LOOK  
AT IT.



I WAS STRUCK  
SPEECHLESS AT  
THE STUPIDITY OF  
WHAT YOU SAID.

Ooo-  
ooh!  
Love,  
love,  
kissy,  
kissy!!

AM I  
RIGHT?! I  
AM RIGHT,  
AREN'T I?!



RITSU...IS  
A MAN.

YOU  
SEE...



I-  
I WAS  
CONVINCED  
THAT HE WAS  
A WOMAN.



I SEE...

...DRESSING  
LIKE A  
WOMAN.

BUT HE'S  
BEEN DOING  
THAT FOR  
A LONG  
TIME...

TO THINK  
THAT SUCH  
A BEAUTIFUL  
PERSON WOULD  
BE MALE...

THE SOHMA  
FAMILY  
REALLY IS  
FULL OF  
BEAUTIFUL  
PEOPLE.



THANK  
YOU VERY  
MUCH.

I DID IT.

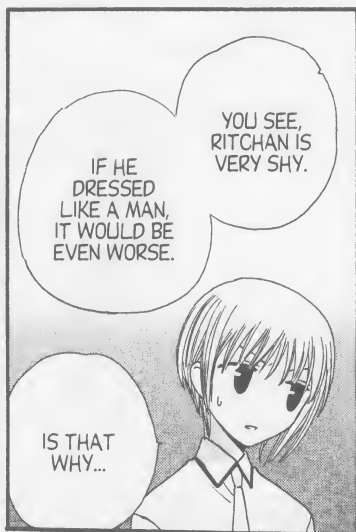


floppity  
flop

カ  
タ  
カ  
タ。



...THERE.



MY SINS WILL  
NEVER BE  
FORGIVEN...

OH...

OH  
DEAR.

GOD,  
BUDDHA...

か  
びん  
っ

RITCHAN-  
SAN?!

WHEN DID  
HE...?

W-W-  
WA-WA-  
WATCH  
OUT!!



I WAS  
EMBARRASSED.

SO HE DOES  
REALIZE IT'S  
EMBARRASSING  
...



TOHRU-SAN...  
I KNOW AN  
APOLOGY  
ISN'T ENOUGH

...BUT I'M  
SORRY FOR  
INFLECTING  
SUCH A  
TERRIBLE  
WOUND ON  
YOU.

IT'S NOT A  
TERRIBLE  
WOUND! IT'S  
JUST A  
LITTLE CUT!!

AND I'M  
SORRY THAT  
I DIDN'T TELL  
YOU THAT  
I'M REALLY  
A MAN.



AAHH...!


WHY DO I  
ALWAYS,  
ALWAYS...

...CAUSE  
TROUBLE TO  
EVERYONE  
AROUND ME?!

I THOUGHT  
YOU LOOKED  
WONDERFUL!!

I DON'T THINK  
IT SHOULD BE  
EMBARRASSING  
FOR YOU TO  
DRESS AS A  
WOMAN!

THERE'S NO  
NEED TO BE!



TOHRU-  
KUN... I DON'T  
THINK YOU'RE  
HELPING...



I'M SO  
SHAMELESS,  
THE WAY  
I BURDEN  
EVERYONE!

WELL, YES,  
WHEN YOU  
ACT LIKE  
THIS YOU  
CERTAINLY  
ARE...



MAYBE... MAYBE  
IT WOULD BE  
BETTER FOR  
EVERYONE IF I  
CUT SHORT MY  
EXISTENCE...

BUT NO!  
I DON'T EVEN  
HAVE THE  
COURAGE  
FOR THAT.

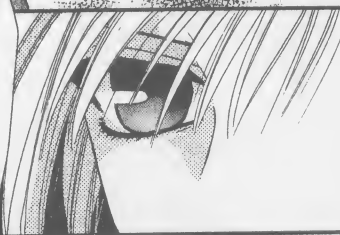
THAT'S RIGHT.  
I SERVE NO  
PURPOSE IN LIFE,  
BUT WHEN IT  
COMES TO ENDING  
IT, I AM DOUBLY  
SHAMELESS.

WHY WAS  
SOMEONE  
SUCH AS I...



...GIVEN LIFE  
IN THIS  
WORLD?

I HATE  
MYSELF!!



OH

SOMEONE  
LIKE ME  
DESERVES TO  
BE PUNISHED.

DON'T  
SAY THAT!

RITCHAN,  
C'MON...

ONLY DIVINE  
PUNISHMENT  
WILL DO!





IN THIS  
WORLD...

IF THAT'S  
NOT A  
REASON  
FOR BEING  
BORN IN  
THIS  
WORLD...

YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO BE  
COURAGEOUS!!

WHAT'S  
WRONG...

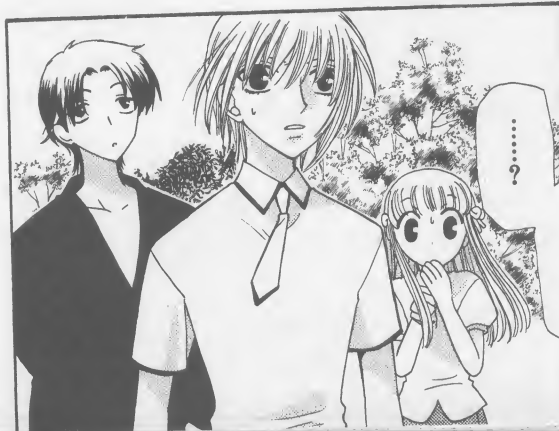
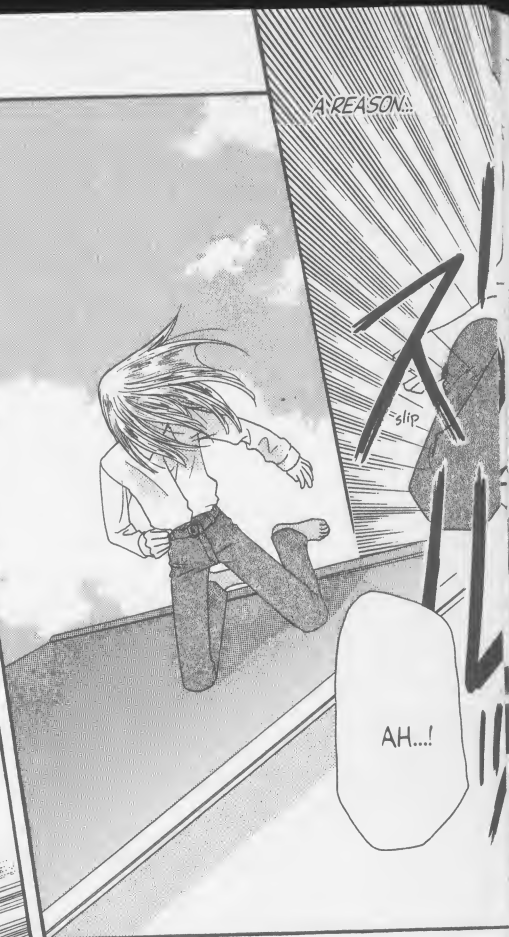
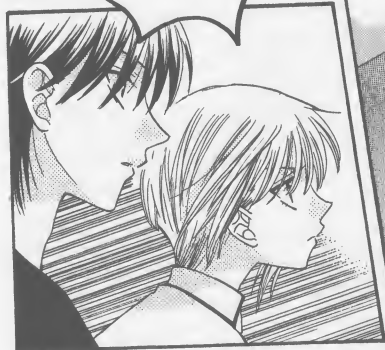
...WITH BEING  
SHAMELESS?!

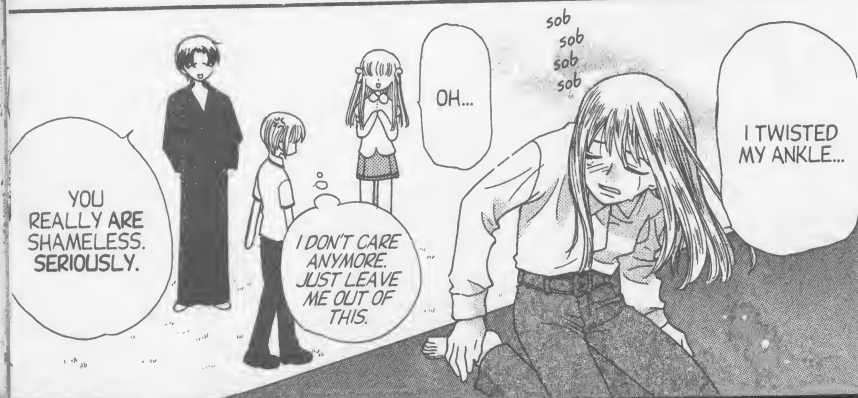
SOMETIMES  
LIVING CAN BE  
HARD, BUT IT'S  
ONLY BECAUSE  
WE'RE ALIVE THAT  
WE CAN MAKE  
EACH OTHER...

...I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHAT IS!

...LAUGH, CRY...  
BE HAPPY!











THAT'S  
RIGHT.  
YUKI-KUN...

...IS TRYING  
TO CHANGE.

IT'S RUDE  
OF ME  
TO KEEP  
WORRYING.  
ISN'T IT...

...YUKI-KUN?



...I  
JUST...

Y-YES,  
UM...

NOW, THIS  
IS UNUSUAL..  
I DON'T THINK  
I'VE EVER  
SEEN YOU SO  
ASSERTIVE.

SHIGURE-  
NIISAN...

IF IT'S NOT  
TOO MUCH  
TROUBLE...  
WOULD IT BE  
ALL RIGHT FOR  
ME TO STAY  
JUST ONE  
NIGHT...?

Shi-

HE MAY BE A MAN,  
BUT HE'S STILL  
BEAUTIFUL...

...THE MONKEY,  
RITCHAN-SAN.

I WONDER IF  
TOMORROW I'LL  
GET TO TALK TO  
HIM SOME MORE.





## Chapter 45





IT'S JUST  
RIGHT.

NO.



IS THERE  
ENOUGH  
SALT?

IT'S NOT  
TOO SPICY,  
IS IT?



Oooooh,  
hoo, hoo!



YOU DON'T  
NEED TO  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
THAT.

THANK  
GOODNESS!

WHILE WE WERE  
TOGETHER AT THE  
SUMMER HOUSE,  
I NEVER GOT TO  
ASK YOU HOW YOU  
LIKE YOUR FOOD,  
HATORI-SAN!



YOU HAD  
BETTER  
THINK TWICE  
BEFORE YOU  
SAY THOSE  
STUPID  
THINGS...

EH?! OO

ISN'T SHE  
GREAT? AREN'T  
YOU JEALOUS?  
DON'T YOU  
JUST WANT  
TO STEAL HER  
AWAY?

MY NEW  
HOUSEWIFE!







OH MY.

You were  
here?

...OR SOMEONE  
MIGHT SEND  
YOU FLYING  
THROUGH THE  
ROOF.



GOOD  
MORNING,  
KYO-KUN...

...  
SHEESH.

AND YOU!  
STOP SMILING  
AND TELL  
HIM YOU DON'T  
LIKE IT!!

UM,  
AH...

THE ONLY REASON  
THAT STUPID DOG  
KEEPS SAYING  
STUFF LIKE THAT  
IS BECAUSE YOU  
LET HIM GET AWAY  
WITH IT!



WHO ARE  
YOU CALLING  
YOUR WIFE?!  
HAAH?!

IF YOU DON'T  
SHUT YOUR  
STUPID  
MOUTH, I'LL  
BREAK YOUR  
NECK!!

Eek!  
KYO-KUN'S  
scary!

ASK  
SHIGURE.

WHAT ARE YOU  
STILL DOING  
HERE ANYWAY,  
HATORI?!

It's tea! I want  
it! Gimme,  
gimme!

No.

WHA!

I'M  
NOT!!

THERE'S NO  
NEED TO  
TAKE YOUR  
JEALOUSY  
OUT ON HER.

THAT'S  
GOT NOTHING  
TO DO WITH  
ME!!

B-BUT IF  
HATORI-SAN  
HADN'T COME  
HERE...

...THEN  
RITCHAN-SAN'S  
INJURY MIGHT  
HAVE GOTTEN  
SERIOUS!

カ  
clack  
チャ

AH...!

I'M SORRY!  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT!!

I'LL GO  
BUY SOME  
MILK RIGHT  
AWAY!

WAIT, WAIT,  
YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO--

Huh?

NO, NO!  
AS SOMEONE  
WHO HAS BEEN  
ENTRUSTED WITH  
THE KITCHEN,  
THIS IS VERY  
SERIOUS!

WE'RE OUT  
OF MILK?

HUH?

EH?!

Tch!



IT'S NOT HER  
FAULT! I'M  
SORRRYYYYY!!!

WHOA!!



OH YEAH...  
YOU'RE STILL  
HERE, TOO...

I AM THE  
ONE WHO DRANK  
THE LAST OF THE  
MILK! I AM THE ONE  
WHO AM STEEPED  
IN SIN! I AM THE  
EVIL ONE! NOW,  
PLEASE, WITHOUT  
PLEEASE HESITATION, RENDER  
RENDER JUDGMENT!  
JUDGMENT!

I ALWAYS  
HAVE CORN  
FLAKES FOR  
BREAKFAST.  
SO TOHRU-SAN  
POURED THE  
MILK THAT  
WOULD HAVE  
BEEN YOURS.  
KYO-SAN,  
INTO MY  
BOWL!

Oh dear...

RITCHAN, NEXT  
TIME PUT DOWN  
YOUR CEREAL  
BEFORE YOU  
LAUNCH INTO  
YOUR VIOLENT  
CONFESSIONS.

How,  
How ON  
EARTH CAN  
I POSSIBLY  
MAKE IT UP  
TO YOU, KYO-  
SAAAAAN?!!

GASP!  
☆



RITCHAN-  
SAN...

I KNEW  
THAT NOTHING  
BUT ILL WOULD  
COME OF MY  
PARTAKING OF  
BREAKFAST  
AT SHIGURE-  
NIISAN'S  
HONORABLE  
HOME!!

N

IN THAT  
CASE, HOW  
CAN I--?!

JUST GO TO  
THE STORE  
AND BUY  
SOME MORE  
MILK!!

UH,  
UM...

RITCHAN-SAN,  
SO BEAUTIFUL  
THAT AT FIRST  
GLANCE, YOU'D  
THINK HE WAS  
A WOMAN.

(I REALLY  
DID THINK  
HE WAS A  
WOMAN...)

I'D  
RATHER  
DIE.

PLEASE DRINK  
AS MUCH MILK  
AS YOU LIKE  
FROM THIS DISH!  
I'VE HARDLY  
TOUCHED IT!

RITCHAN-  
SAN, THE  
MONKEY.

GOOD  
MORNING!

YUKI-KUN,  
YOU'RE  
UP LATE.

GOOD  
MORNING...

HIS  
PERSONALITY  
REALLY DOES  
SEEM TO  
RESEMBLE  
HIS MOTHER'S.

WHY IS HE APOLOGIZING?

I'M S  
I M  
YOU

I'M  
SORRY I  
LET YOU  
SLEEP  
LATE!!

NO!

ooHH, I'M  
 SORRY! YOU'LL  
 BE SUSPENDED  
 BECAUSE OF  
 BEING LATE, AND  
 THEN YOU'LL BE  
 EXPELLED! I'M SO  
 SORRY!!!

A A  
 H

HEY! DON'T YOU  
 GO DECIDING THE  
 FUTURE OF MY  
 SCHOOLING!!

He just woke up so is  
 in a really bad mood.

He just woke up so is →  
in a really bad mood.

He just woke up so is →  
in a really bad mood.



THAT'S  
FUNNY. YOU'RE  
ALWAYS  
MORE OF A  
VILLAIN.

YOU FIGHT  
FOR JUSTICE?

Er...

JUSTICE  
PREVAILS!



Not so you  
could run  
amok.

SO,  
LISTEN.

YES... I'M  
SORRY.

YOU STAYED  
HERE BECAUSE  
YOU HAVE  
SOMETHING  
TO ASK TOHRU-  
KUN, DIDN'T  
YOU?

I TOLD  
YOU, YOU  
NEED TO  
CALM  
DOWN.



RITCHAN,  
YOU WANT  
TO BE A  
BETTER MAN,  
DON'T YOU?

HE SURE  
DOES HAVE  
A WAY OF  
PUTTING  
THINGS  
BLUNTLY.

IT'S WHEN  
YOU START  
APOLOGIZING  
LIKE THAT THAT  
YOU REALLY  
CREEP PEOPLE  
OUT.

NONE OF  
US REALLY  
GIVE A HOOT  
ABOUT YOU  
ONE WAY OR  
THE OTHER.

y-  
yes  
...

EEH?!

WHY IS THAT?! CAN'T MY DREAM COME TRUE?!

AAYA'S CONFIDENCE IS FAR BEYOND THAT OF MORTAL MEN!

Someone like you should set his sights a little lower...

AYAME ASIDE...

tap

Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha

OF COURSE! SOMEDAY...

eat's his soba with deep confidence

Eat it normally!

AAHH, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

...I HOPE THAT I CAN OVERFLOW WITH CONFIDENCE, LIKE AYA-NIISAN!

Liar.

Yes, that's exactly what I was saying.

y--


YES...



...THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU AREN'T BLAMING YOU OR CRITICIZING YOU AS MUCH AS YOU THINK.

SO YOU CAN HAVE A LITTLE MORE COMPOSURE.





Ritchan's  
really fun,  
isn't He?!

He's  
energetic  
and  
powerful!!

Yes!

AND HE'S  
VERY  
PRETTY.

ALTHOUGH  
IT WOULD BE  
EASIER ON  
ALL OF US IF  
HE WASN'T SO  
ENERGETIC...

HUH...? HEY,  
WHERE'S  
HARU?

HE STAYED  
HOME!



"I'M SORRY."

"I APOLOGIZE."

"I'M  
SORRY..."



"...FATHER,  
MOTHER."

**Fruits Basket 8:  
Part 3**

So my second Playstation is broken. (The PS2 is fine.) It fizzled out right in the middle of a game. And so, as I sat there and stared (in shock) at the black TV screen, I thought, "Wouldn't it be cool if the titles of all the games I've played and the time I spent playing them scrolled by like credits in a movie?"

You served me well, Playstation-san... Thank you.





WHEN  
RITCHAN  
PANICS,  
HE GOES  
CRAZY...

...BUT ...

...HE'S  
VERY NICE.



IT'S LIKE  
SOMEONE  
TRIED THEIR  
ABSOLUTE  
VERY HARDEST  
TO WRAP IT!!

WOW!  
THAT'S  
SOME  
BANDAGE  
YOU HAVE  
THERE.

The one who  
wrapped it.



...FOR  
SOMETHING...

...IT'S SO  
VERY  
GENTLE.

WHEN HE  
SMILES...

AND YET  
HE BLAMES  
HIMSELF...

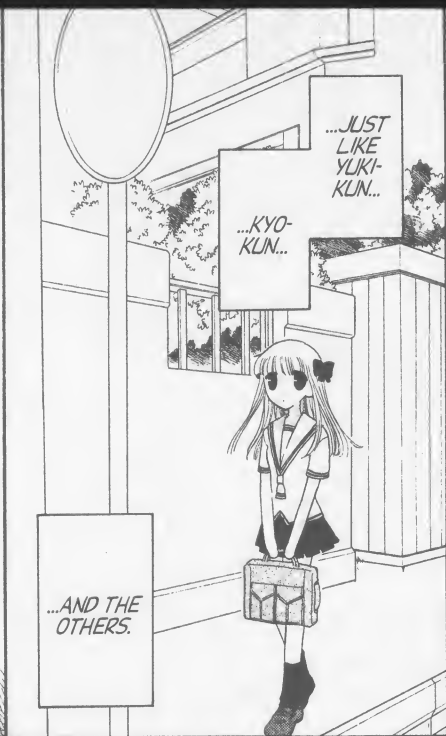


YES,  
HE IS!



"WHY  
WAS I..."

...BORN  
IN THIS  
WORLD?"



"I CAN GO  
ON SMILING  
EVERY DAY  
BECAUSE MY  
LITTLE GIRL  
IS HERE."

...THAT I  
HAD YOU,  
TOHRLI."

"I'M SO  
GLAD..."

"...SO THAT  
I COULD  
MEET YOU?"



"MOMMY..."

"DOES THAT  
MEAN I WAS  
BORN..."

I'M SORRY!  
PLEASE EXCUSE  
ME! PLEASE  
FORGIVE ME!  
I'LL GO BUY  
MORE TAKOYAKI\*  
RIGHT AWAY!

I'M SORRY!  
I'M SORRY I  
TRIED TO TAKE  
IT BACK! I'LL  
APOLOGIZE!  
I'LL APOLOGIZE  
TO THE WHOLE  
WORLD!

I'MMM  
SORRRYYY!

....

RITCHAN-  
SAN...?

Tako-  
Yaro

\* takoyaki: dumplings made with bits of  
octopus meat—a tasty treat!

Enjoying the takoyaki.

SH...!

SHIGURE-  
NIISAN...

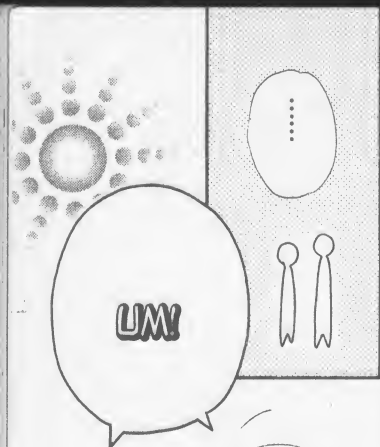
"IF  
THAT'S  
TRUE...

...IT WOULD  
MAKE ME  
HAPPY."

No  
oo  
oo  
oo

!!!





UM



I SEE...

OR SO HE SAYS...

IF HE DOESN'T  
EAT TAKOYAKI,  
HIS WRITING  
BRUSH SLOWS  
DOWN!



Y-YOU'RE  
RIGHT!!

OH I  
COULDN'T!  
PLEASE,  
TOHRU-SAN!

YES, WHAT  
IS IT?!

NO, I  
COULDN'T!

NO, NO,  
RITCHAN-  
SAN, YOU  
GO FIRST!

N-NO,  
WHAT DO  
YOU HAVE  
TO SAY?!

D-  
DON'T YOU  
FEEL LIKE  
WE'RE  
GETTING  
NOWHERE  
LIKE THIS?!

I COULDN'T!



YES...  
THAT  
IS... UM!!

E E H H ?!

BY ALL  
MEANS!!

S-S-S-SO,  
RITCHAN-  
SAN...







...AND  
MY POOR  
PARENTS, ALL  
THEY CAN DO  
IS APOLOGIZE.

ON THE  
"INSIDE," THEY  
OFTEN TALK  
ABOUT HOW  
WORTHLESS  
I AM...

I HAVE TO  
STUDY TWICE  
AS HARD TO  
BE ABLE TO  
KEEP UP WITH  
EVERYONE  
ELSE.

I'M WEAK...  
AND  
CLUMSY...

SO...

I THOUGHT  
I'D TRY TO BE  
STRONGER...

...AND  
STOP  
DRESSING  
LIKE A  
WOMAN.

BUT...I  
JUST DON'T  
HAVE THE  
CONFIDENCE.

Kagura-chan...  
will you give me  
this dress?

EVER SINCE I  
DISCOVERED BY  
CHANCE THAT  
WEARING WOMEN'S  
CLOTHING HELPS  
ME CALM DOWN  
A LITTLE, I'VE  
DRESSED LIKE  
THAT.

You'd  
wear  
it? I  
More  
than  
once?!

BUT THAT  
JUST ADDED TO  
THE NUMBER  
OF THINGS MY  
PARENTS HAD  
TO APOLOGIZE  
FOR.

*I'M SO  
SORRY.*

*FATHER AND  
MOTHER  
MUST HATE  
HAVING TO  
APOLOGIZE  
FOR ME ALL  
THE TIME.*

*SURELY THEY  
WANTED A  
SON WHO  
WOULD MAKE  
THEM PROUD.*

*THAT'S  
WHY...*

*...I'M SO  
HOPELESS.*

*MAYBE IT  
WOULD BE  
BETTER...*

*A WORTH-  
WHILE SON.*

*I'M SORRY.*

*...IF I DIDN'T  
EXIST.*

*MY HEART  
BROKE.*

*EVEN SO...*

BUT I STILL  
KEEP LIVING. I  
REALLY AM...

...VERY  
SHAME-  
LESS.

YOU'RE  
TRYING  
TO FIND  
IT, AREN'T  
YOU?

I'M SURE  
THERE WAS  
NO REASON...

...FOR ME  
TO BE  
BORN.

EVEN IF YOU  
BELIEVE  
THERE IS A  
REASON...

I'M SURE  
THAT  
INSIDE YOUR  
HEART...

...YOU'RE  
TRYING WITH  
ALL YOUR  
MIGHT TO  
FIND IT ON  
YOUR OWN...

THE  
REASON  
YOU WERE  
BORN.

...SOME-  
TIMES YOU  
LOSE THAT  
REASON.

IT COULD  
BE YOUR  
DREAMS...

...YOUR  
JOB...

...OR A  
PERSON.

A REASON  
FOR BEING  
BORN...

A REASON  
THAT IT'S  
OKAY TO BE  
ALIVE...

A REASON  
TO EXIST.

BECAUSE  
...

BECAUSE  
REALLY...

...THERE MIGHT  
NOT BE ANY-  
ONE WHO WAS  
BORN WITH A  
REASON.

I THINK  
EVERYONE MIGHT  
HAVE TO FIND IT  
THEMSELVES...  
AND DECIDE  
IT FOR THEM-  
SELVES.

I THINK...  
THAT EVERY-  
ONE...EVERYONE  
MIGHT HAVE  
TO FIND ONE ON  
THEIR OWN.





I'M  
SEARCHING,  
TOO.

AND YOU...  
MIGHT  
LOSE IT.

BUT  
AS LONG  
AS YOU'RE  
ALIVE...

AND IF  
I CAN...

IF I CAN, I  
WANT TO  
FIND MY  
REASON...

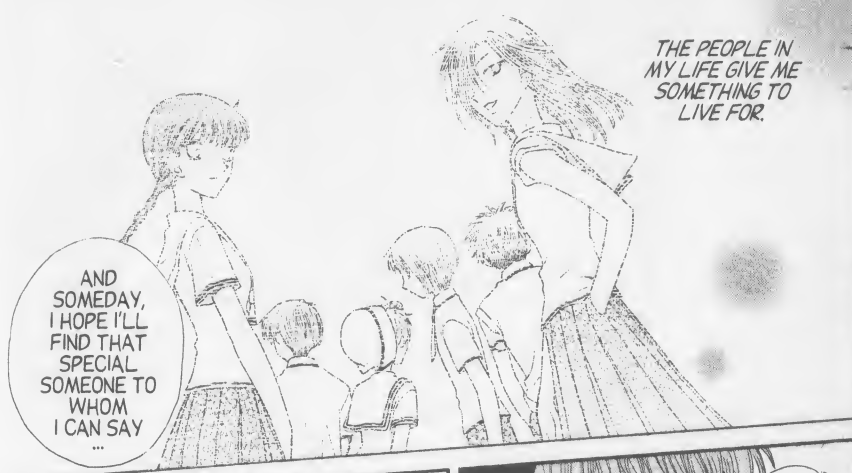
...YOU HAVE  
TO KEEP  
SEARCHING  
FOR THAT  
REASON.

...THE  
REASON  
YOU'RE  
LOOKING  
FOR...

...MIGHT  
BE VAGUE,  
UNCLEAR...

...AND  
UNCERTAIN.

...IN SOMEONE  
ELSE.



THE PEOPLE IN  
MY LIFE GIVE ME  
SOMETHING TO  
LIVE FOR.

AND  
SOMEDAY,  
I HOPE I'LL  
FIND THAT  
SPECIAL  
SOMEONE TO  
WHOM  
I CAN SAY  
...

...EVEN IF  
YOU'RE  
SHAMELESS.

...IT'S  
OKAY...

SO...THAT'S  
WHY I'M  
SURE...

...  
"YOU'RE  
MY  
REASON  
FOR  
LIVING."

WHENEVER I  
START TO FEEL  
SAD, I THINK ABOUT  
MY REASON, AND  
I KNOW I HAVE TO  
KEEP DOING MY  
BEST.

...WHO WILL  
WANT TO EAT  
TAKOYAKI WITH  
YOU MORE THAN  
WITH ANYONE  
ELSE.

BECAUSE IF  
YOU STAY TRUE  
TO YOURSELF  
AND LIVE YOUR  
LIFE BOLDLY,  
SOMEDAY...

...YOU MIGHT  
BE ABLE  
TO MEET  
SOMEONE...

THANK YOU  
SO MUCH.

I WANT TO  
HEAR...

...THOSE  
WORDS ONE  
MORE TIME.

THANK  
YOU!



...I WANT TO  
FIND IT IN  
SOMEONE  
ELSE.

...IF IT'S  
POSSIBLE...

I TOO...

I HOPE I CAN...  
SOMEDAY.



MY REASON.



I WANT YOU TO  
SAY THEM ONE  
MORE TIME.

I WONDER  
...

...IF I  
CAN  
FIND IT.



I HOPE I  
CAN SAY  
IT--

"I WAS  
BORN FOR  
YOU."

IT WOULD BE  
NICE IF  
I COULD...

...SAY THAT  
SOMEDAY.

I HOPE  
I CAN...

...EAT  
TAKOYAKI...

...WITH THEM.



PERHAPS THAT  
PERSON IS OUT  
THERE WAITING  
TO HEAR THOSE  
WORDS...

I REALIZE  
THAT NO  
PARENT  
WANTS  
TO BURY  
THEIR OWN  
CHILD...

tremble

....AND I JUST  
HAVEN'T MET  
THAT PERSON  
YET..

FATHER,  
MOTHER...

tremble  
tremble

E  
e  
e  
e  
k  
!

PLEASE DON'T  
STOP ME!  
PLEASE DON'T  
STOP ME!! I  
REALLY MEAN  
IT THIS TIME!!

EH?!

EH?!

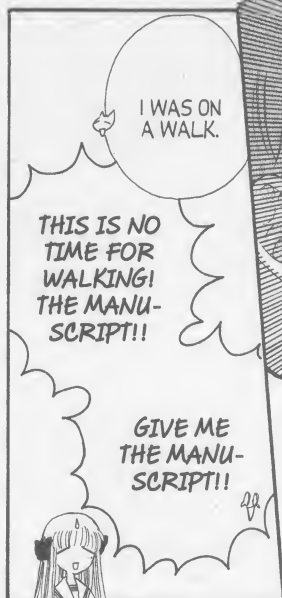
MITCHAN-  
SAN, SNAP  
OUT OF IT!!

MITCHAN  
...

...SAN?

...BUT YOUR  
DAUGHTER  
MITSURU CAN  
NO LONGER  
BEAR THE  
HARASSMENT  
OF A CERTAIN  
AUTHOR...

tremble  
tremble  
tremble  
tremble



**YES, SENSEI  
WITH IKAYAKI  
OR TAKOYAKI  
OR WHATEVER  
IT TAKES! WRITE  
QUICKLY,  
WITHOUT  
HESITATION!**

**DROP THE  
STORY?! THAT'S  
DREADFUL!  
PLEASE, ONII-  
SAN, PLEASE  
WRITE WITH  
TAKOYAKI  
POWER!!**

**YOU COULDN'T  
FINISH? THAT'S  
TERRIBLE!  
WE'LL HAVE TO  
DROP YOUR  
STORY!**

**I'M SORRY!  
I'M SORRY,  
SHIGURE-  
NIISAN!!**

Say  
alright.

YOU COULDN'T  
FINISH? THAT'S  
TERRIBLE!  
WE'LL HAVE TO  
DROP YOUR  
STORY!

I'M SORRY!  
I'M SORRY,  
SHIGURE-  
NIISAN!!

...POWER...

WITH  
TAKO-  
YAKI...

...YAKI...

TAKO...

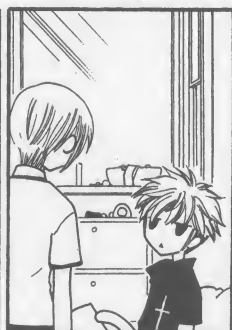
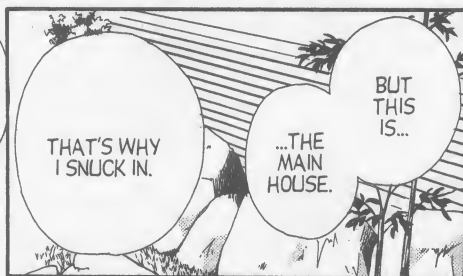


I HOPE...

...I CAN FIND MY REASON.



\*Nameplate:  
Sohma  
Estate





THEN...

...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

ABOUT RIN?

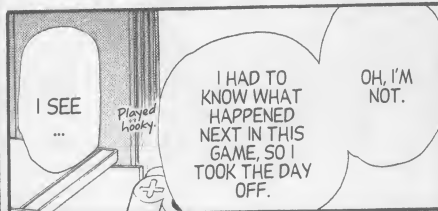
HNN...?



FUNNY... YOU DON'T LOOK SICK.

AND FOR ME.

IN COMMEMORATION OF YOUR COMING TO THE MAIN HOUSE AFTER SO LONG...



I SEE ...

*Played hooky*

I HAD TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED NEXT IN THIS GAME, SO I TOOK THE DAY OFF.

OH, I'M NOT.



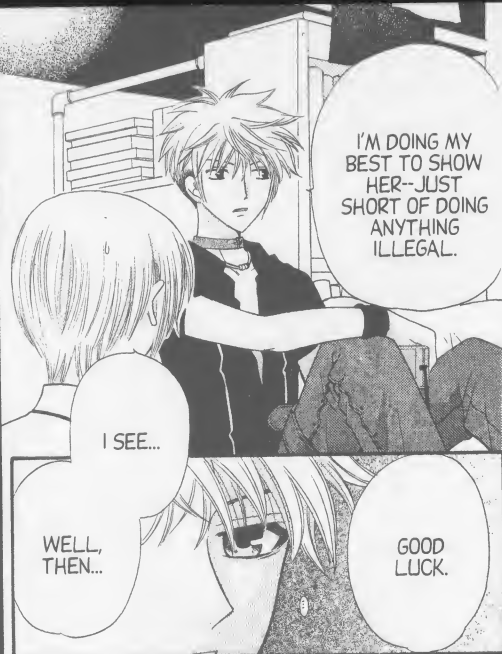
...JUST HOW MUCH I LIKE HER.

I DON'T THINK RIN REALIZES...

YEAH.

I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP ON HER YET.







I'M  
GOING  
HOME!!

AWW,  
YOU'RE  
SULKING.

C'MON.  
GIVE ME  
A PEACE  
SIGN.

MEANWHILE,  
BACK AT THE  
HOUSE...



OH NO...  
YOU POOR  
WOMAN! I DIDN'T  
REALIZE A  
WRITER COULD  
BE SO CRUEL!

IT'S TRUE. WE  
WRITERS CAN  
BE QUITE A  
HANDFUL.

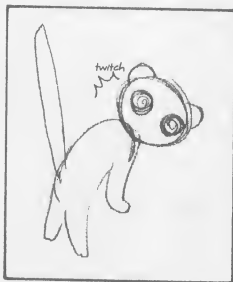
HE IGNORES THE  
DEADLINE, HE  
WRITES SOMETHING  
COMPLETELY  
DIFFERENT FROM  
WHAT HE PROMISES,  
HE DISAPPEARS  
WITHOUT WARNING  
FOR DAYS AT  
A TIME...

BECAUSE  
OF HIM, I'VE  
LOST ALL  
CONFIDENCE IN  
THIS JOB!

Filler  
sketches



Ritchan, having a wonderful dream.



Monkey-Ritchan, wonderfully frightened.



## Chapter 46



**I feel  
so grateful!**

...she says.

Harada-sama, Araki-sama,  
Kawaai-sama, mother, father,  
everyone involved in making the  
anime, all the voice actors, and  
everyone who reads this manga...

Thank you for all the letters and  
presents! And most of all, thank  
you for the support!

Next up it's His Highness the King's  
turn. You know who I mean!

—Natsuki Takaya





### UL-SPE BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 3

Kyon and Uo are so much alike that they argue a lot, but probably being so much alike is what irritates them the most... something like that.



KYON-KYON,  
HAVE YOU  
DECIDED ON  
WHAT YOU'RE  
GONNA BE  
WHEN YOU  
GROW UP?

Maybe  
a cat  
trainer?

KYOOOON-  
Kyon!

I GUESS I  
SHOULD ASK  
GRANDPA.

SHUT UP!!  
THAT'S NONE  
OF YOUR  
BUSINESS!

MY  
GUARDIAN  
...



U-U-Uotani-  
sama...?

IS SOME-  
THING  
BOTHERING  
YOU?

rattle  
rattle

Grrrrumble...

IT'S LUNCH-  
TIME! I'M  
HUNGRY,  
DAMMIT!!



struggle  
struggle

struggle  
struggle

grumble  
grumble

grumble  
grumble  
grumble

IT'S  
BECAUSE  
I WAS BORN  
A WOMAN  
THAT I DID  
THAT, YOU  
STUPID  
ASS!

IF YOU WERE  
A MAN, I'D  
KILL YOU IN A  
SECOND, DAMN  
BITCH!!

BE  
GRATEFUL  
YOU WERE  
BORN A  
WOMAN,  
YANKEE!

grumble

struggle  
struggle  
struggle  
struggle

UM

Let's...  
eat  
lunch...?



I  
overslept  
and had  
to skip  
break-  
fast!!

BEING  
HUNGRY  
PUTS ME  
IN A BAD  
MOOD!!

I'M PISSED  
BECAUSE  
I'M HUNGRY!!

But...

WHY DID  
YOU KICK  
KYON-KYON'S  
DESK?

Max hunger

BECAUSE  
IT'S EASY  
TO KICK!!

YO...



THERE'S BEEN  
SO MUCH  
GOING ON, WE  
KEEP MISSING  
EACH OTHER.

YES...

IT'S BEEN A  
LONG TIME  
SINCE WE'VE  
ALL EATEN  
LUNCH  
TOGETHER!

WITH THESE  
PEOPLE  
AROUND, I CAN  
EAT, BUT IT  
WON'T TASTE  
GOOD...



# Fruits Basket 8: Part 4

This may be a pretty (really?) old topic, but "Shadow Hearts" for the PS2 was a fun game. For some reason, I kept telling myself, "I like this," and played as if entranced. (I know the reason...) I liked Yuri. I liked how he talked when he got mad and I liked how he moves when battles are over. Because of that, I always tried to have Yuri give the final blow, so I almost died a lot...

To be continued  
in part 5





DON'T GO  
PICKING  
FIGHTS  
LIKE THAT!!

OH MY... IS  
THAT A  
CHALLENGE  
...?

THAT'S NOT  
WHAT I  
MEANT...!

WHADDA-  
YA MEAN  
"HUH"?!

DON'T TELL ME  
YOU'RE TRYING  
TO SAY THAT  
TOHRU ISN'T  
GOOD ENOUGH!!



I MET A  
GUY AT WORK  
WHO DOESN'T  
TOTALLY  
SUCK.

WELL,  
MARRIAGE  
ASIDE...

KYO-  
KUN...!

UH, UM... EVEN  
IF I COULD  
GET MARRIED,  
THAT WON'T  
BE FOR A  
LONG TIME...

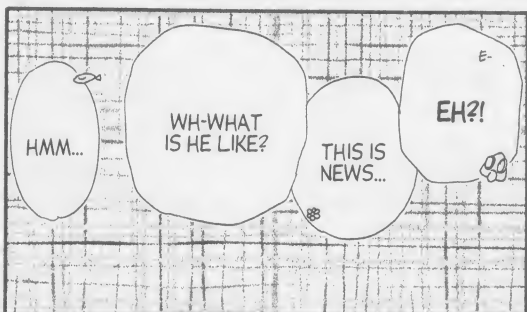
Ha  
ha...

IT WOULD BE  
FUNNY IF I GOT  
MARRIED FIRST.



KEH!

LIKE  
SOMEONE  
WOULD  
MARRY  
YOU!

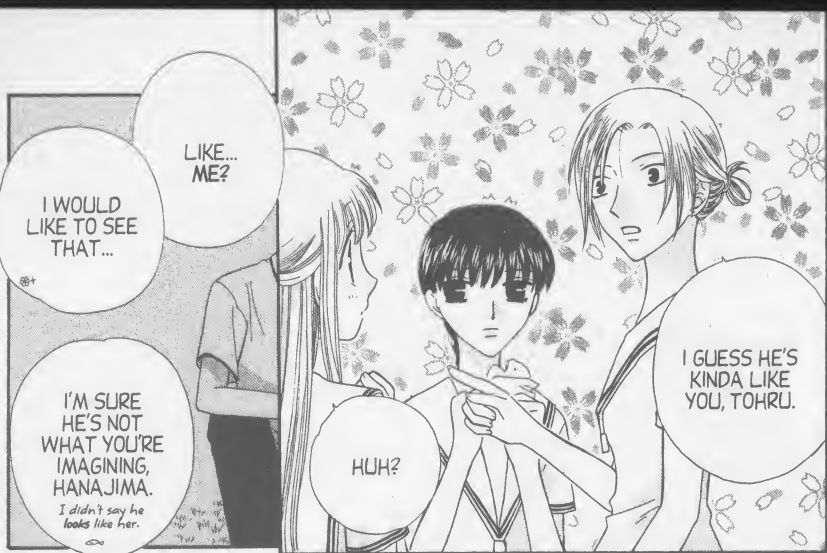


HMM...

WH-WHAT  
IS HE LIKE?

THIS IS  
NEWS...

EH?!



GOALS...

.....

THE  
FUTURE...

PROSPECTS  
...

THE  
PATH...

...ONE  
SHOULD  
FOLLOW  
...



THANK  
YOU.

I'LL  
SEE YOU  
TOMORROW  
AT TEN.

ALL  
RIGHT,  
THEN.

GET  
THE REST  
OF THE  
INSTRUCTIONS  
FROM  
KUNIMITSU...



MY  
FUTURE...



WHA?!

...STARING  
AT ME FROM  
BEHIND IF  
YOU WANTED  
TO TELL ME  
SOMETHING.  
SO...

Play with  
me! Play  
with me!



HM?  
WHAT'S  
WRONG,  
KYO?

IS THERE  
SOMETHING  
YOU WANT  
TO TALK  
ABOUT?

WHA?!  
WHY  
DO YOU  
ASK?!





WELL  
...?

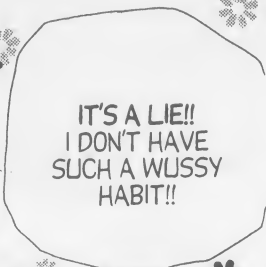


DON'T YOU  
HAVE SOME-  
THING TO  
TALK TO ME  
ABOUT?



Ha ha.

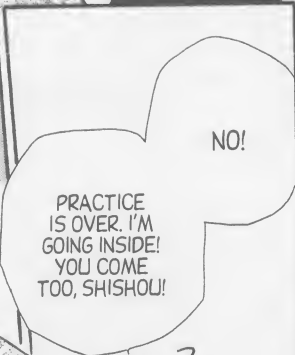
DON'T  
WORRY. I'M  
NOT GOING  
TO TELL  
ANYONE.



IT'S A LIE!!  
I DON'T HAVE  
SUCH A WUSSY  
HABIT!!



...

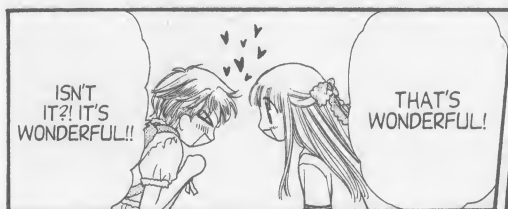


NO!

PRACTICE  
IS OVER. I'M  
GOING INSIDE!  
YOU COME  
TOO, SHISHOU!



ふいっ



DO YOUR  
BEST,  
MOMIJI-  
CHAN!!

*I don't really know  
what's going on,  
though.*

FIGHT ON,  
MOMIJI-CHAN!!  
WE'RE WITH  
YOU!!

*I don't really  
know what's  
going on,  
either.*

I'M DOING  
MY BEST!  
♡

Yeah!

SOMEDAY...

I'LL SHOW  
YOU, TOHRU!!

MOMI-

MOMIJI-  
KUN IS  
LIKE A  
TEEN  
IDOL!

...PRETTY  
LIVELY  
OVER  
THERE.

IT  
LOOKS...

...IT MIGHT BE  
"IMPOSSIBLE"?

BUT  
DIDN'T HE  
SAY...

EH?

UH...  
Y-YES...  
HE DID.

I DON'T KNOW  
*WHAT* HE'LL  
SHOW ME  
THOUGH...

AND HE  
SAID HE'D  
SHOW ME  
NEXT TIME.

IT SEEMS  
LIKE MOMIJI-KUN  
HAS ALREADY  
DECIDED WHERE  
HE WANTS TO  
GO IN LIFE.



...OF  
OBSTACLES  
...

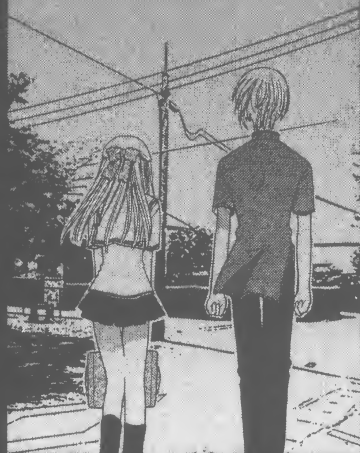
UM...

...IN OUR  
WAY.

THERE  
ARE A  
LOT...

...ABOUT THOSE  
THINGS, IT'S  
ALMOST...

*WHEN  
I THINK...*



HM?

YUKI-KUN...

YES...?



NEVER MIND.

AH...

.....

WELL...

GOOD NIGHT.

YES! GOOD NIGHT!





AH...!

カチヤ  
clock  
...

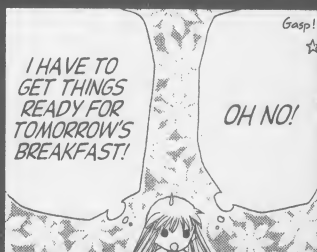


step  
step

crash

SHUT

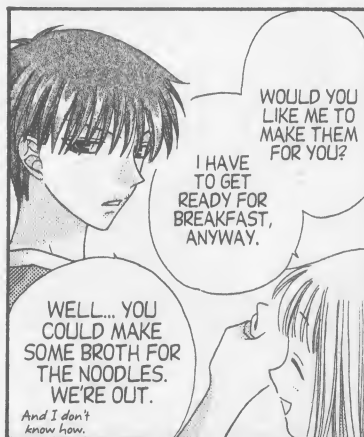
.....



Gasp!

I HAVE TO  
GET THINGS  
READY FOR  
TOMORROW'S  
BREAKFAST!

OH NO!



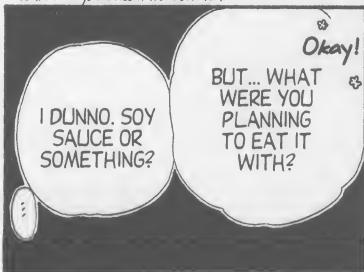
WOULD YOU  
LIKE ME TO  
MAKE THEM  
FOR YOU?

I HAVE  
TO GET  
READY FOR  
BREAKFAST,  
ANYWAY.

WELL... YOU  
COULD MAKE  
SOME BROTH FOR  
THE NOODLES.  
WE'RE OUT.

And I don't  
know how.

Tohru always makes it from scratch.



Okay!

BUT... WHAT  
WERE YOU  
PLANNING TO EAT IT  
WITH?

I DUNNO. SOY  
SAUCE OR  
SOMETHING?

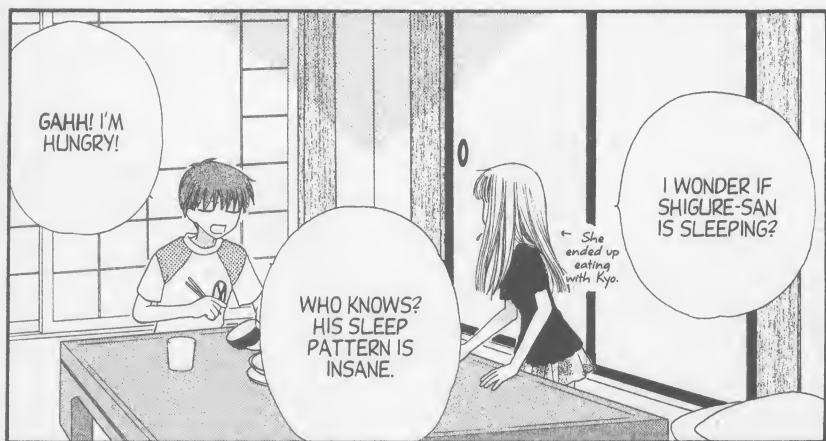


KYO-KUN?  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING UP?

YO.

I WAS  
HUNGRY AND  
COULDN'T  
SLEEP, SO I  
THOUGHT I'D  
HAVE SOME  
SOUMEN\*.

\*soumen: noodles







HE'S  
LIKE A  
DOTING  
PARENT.

THAT'S  
ALL.

"IT WAS  
ALWAYS A  
SUPERSTITION  
OF MINE."

YOU  
WANNA  
KNOW  
WHY?

"I GUESS  
I WAS  
FINALLY  
READY TO  
ACCEPT..."



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SMILING  
ABOUT?

NOTHING!  
SO, KYO-KUN,  
YOUR DREAM  
FOR THE  
FUTURE...

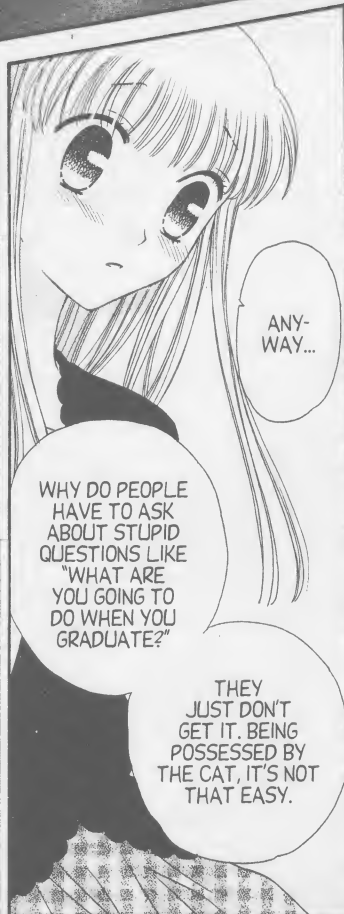
...IS TO INHERIT  
SHISHOU-SAN'S  
DOJO, ISN'T IT?

...THAT A  
CERTAIN  
SOMEONE  
WOULD BE  
OKAY, EVEN  
IF I CUT IT."





*"OVER  
MY DEAD  
BODY!"*



I DON'T EVEN  
KNOW IF I'D BE  
ABLE TO LIVE  
WITH NORMAL  
PEOPLE.

JUST  
THINKING  
ABOUT IT, I  
FREEZE UP.

*"I DON'T THINK  
IT'S EVEN  
POSSIBLE."*

ANY-  
WAY...

WHY DO PEOPLE  
HAVE TO ASK  
ABOUT STUPID  
QUESTIONS LIKE  
"WHAT ARE  
YOU GOING TO  
DO WHEN YOU  
GRADUATE?"

THEY  
JUST DON'T  
GET IT. BEING  
POSSESSED BY  
THE CAT, IT'S NOT  
THAT EASY.

NO.

NEVER  
MIND  
THAT.

IT'S GOT  
NOTHING  
TO DO  
WITH YOU.

IT'S LIKE...

AND SHIGURE  
IS KIND OF A  
MEMBER OF  
SOCIETY...

...BUT I  
DON'T THINK  
HE UNDER-  
STANDS  
EITHER.

I CAN'T TALK  
TO SHISHOU  
ABOUT IT--NOT  
THAT I DON'T  
TRUST HIM.

Eh...?

HUH?!  
M-ME?!

YOU  
KNOW...

...YOU'RE  
PROBABLY THE  
ONLY ONE WHO  
UNDERSTANDS  
HOW IT FEELS.

GRADUATING  
HIGH SCHOOL  
...

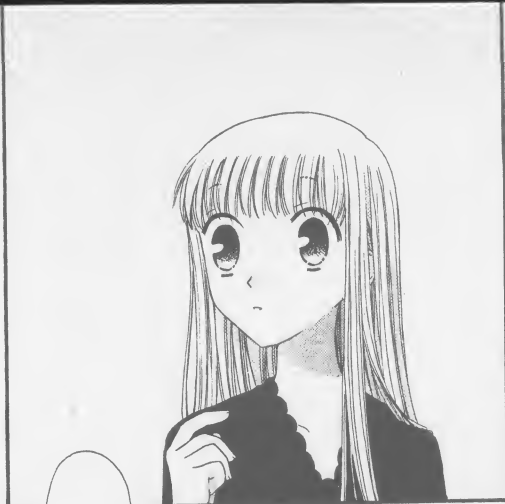
...THAT YOU  
PROMISED  
YOUR MOM  
YOU'D DO  
WHEN SHE  
WAS AROUND.

...GETTING A  
JOB, LIVING ON  
YOUR OWN...  
THOSE ARE  
ALL THINGS...

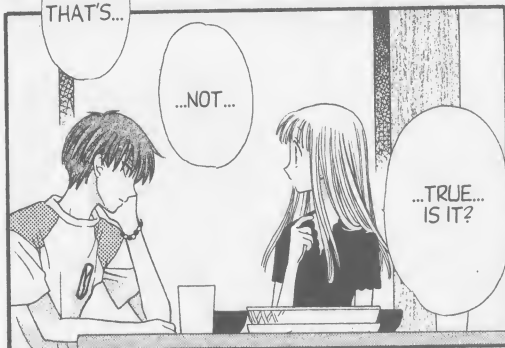
WHAT?

WHY'RE  
YOU  
MAKING  
THAT  
FACE?

EH...?



THAT'S...



...NOT...

...TRUE...  
IS IT?



...COULD  
BE...

I'M  
SURE...

...EVEN I...



...A GOOD  
WORKER.

BUT NOW,  
YOUR  
MOTHER  
IS GONE...

...AND  
YOU'RE  
ALONE.

SO I  
GUESS...

...YOU'RE  
PROBABLY  
PRETTY ANXIOUS  
ABOUT YOUR  
FUTURE.



WHAT?

.....

BUT...

...THERE ARE  
TIMES...

...WHEN I'M  
TROUBLED  
WITH  
ANXIETY.

WILL I BE  
ABLE TO  
FIND GOOD  
JOB?

...SOMEDAY  
I'LL...

...LEAVE  
THIS  
HOME.

AFTER I  
GRADUATE  
THREE YEARS...  
IN TEN YEARS  
DOWN THE  
ROAD...

CAN I REALLY  
LIVE BY  
MYSELF?

THE ANXIETY  
STARTS TO...

...WELL  
UP.

...I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
TO DO OR WHO  
TO TALK TO.

...ABOUT  
THOSE  
THINGS...

WHEN I  
REALLY  
STOP TO  
THINK...

AND  
BEFORE  
I KNOW  
IT...

...SICK WITH  
WORRY.

...I START  
TO GET...







THAT MUST HAVE BEEN...

... WHAT YUKI-KUN WAS TRYING TO TELL ME.



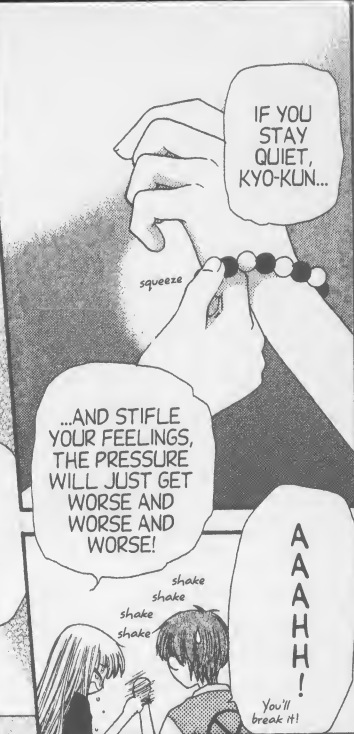
NO...



Heh!

OKAY,  
OKAY, I  
GOT IT!

I UNDER-  
STAND!



IF YOU  
STAY  
QUIET,  
KYO-KUN...

squeeze

...AND STIFLE  
YOUR FEELINGS,  
THE PRESSURE  
WILL JUST GET  
WORSE AND  
WORSE AND  
WORSE!

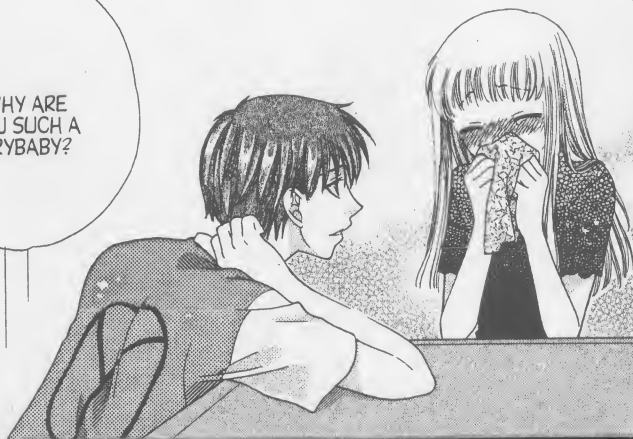
shake  
shake  
shake  
shake

AAAH!  
You'll  
break it!

...

SHEESH...

WHY ARE  
YOU SUCH A  
CRYBABY?







...IF YOU'D  
EVER HAVE  
TIME FOR  
ANYTHING  
BUT LAUNDRY  
EVER AGAIN!

YOU'D WORRY  
ABOUT IF YOU  
COULD EVER  
WASH EVERY-  
THING, IF YOU  
COULD GET IT  
ALL CLEAN...

NOW, LET'S  
ASSUME YOU DON'T  
HAVE A WASHING  
MACHINE, SO YOU  
HAVE TO WASH  
EVERYTHING  
INDIVIDUALLY  
BY HAND.

YOU WOULD  
BE AT A LOSS  
FOR WHAT TO  
DO, RIGHT?



OF  
COURSE IT'S  
IMPORTANT  
TO THINK  
ABOUT WHAT  
LIES AHEAD,  
TOO...

...BUT IF  
YOU ONLY  
LOOK AT  
WHAT'S  
DOWN THE  
ROAD...

...YOU'LL GET  
TANGLED IN THE  
LAUNDRY AT  
YOUR FEET AND  
YOU'LL FALL,  
WON'T YOU?

SO WHAT  
DO YOU DO,  
TOHRU-KUN?


THE MORE  
YOU'D THINK  
ABOUT IT, THE  
MORE ANXIOUS  
YOU'D GET.

BUT TIME KEEPS  
PASSING, AND  
THE LAUNDRY  
DOESN'T WASH  
ITSELF.



...TO START  
WASHING THE  
LAUNDRY RIGHT  
AT YOUR FEET.

IT MIGHT  
BE A GOOD  
IDEA...



BECAUSE  
FORTUNE IS  
LOOKING OUT  
FOR YOU.



...YOU'LL  
BE DONE  
BEFORE YOU  
KNOW IT.

YOU SEE...

AND IF YOU  
KEEP WASHING  
THINGS ONE AT  
A TIME...

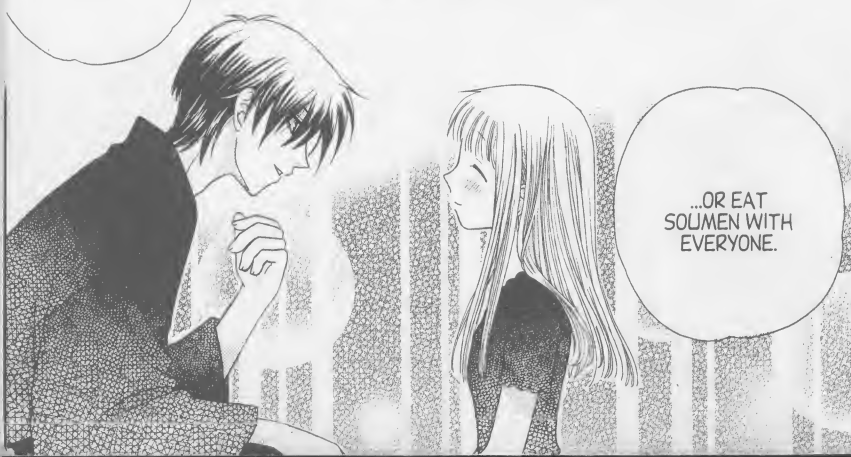
...IT'S ALSO  
IMPORTANT TO  
THINK ABOUT  
WHAT YOU CAN  
DO NOW, WHAT  
YOU CAN DO  
TODAY.



READ A  
BOOK,  
WATCH  
TV...

...TAKE A  
LITTLE  
BREAK.

SOMETIMES  
THE ANXIETY WILL  
START TO WELL  
UP, BUT WHEN  
IT DOES...



...OR EAT  
SOUMEN WITH  
EVERYONE.

WHY YOU...  
YOU JUST  
WANTED TO  
EAT SOUMEN,  
DIDN'T YOU?!

OH MY! I'M  
SHOCKED!!

WOW!!  
WHAT A  
WONDERFUL  
ANALOGY!!

ON  
NIGHTS...

...WHEN I'M  
ANXIOUS.

I REALLY MUST  
TREAT MYSELF  
TO SOME SOUMEN  
AS A REWARD...  
OH! I'D LIKE SOME  
TEA, TOO!



.....  
?

creak

!

HONDA-  
SAN...?

Thank  
goodness.

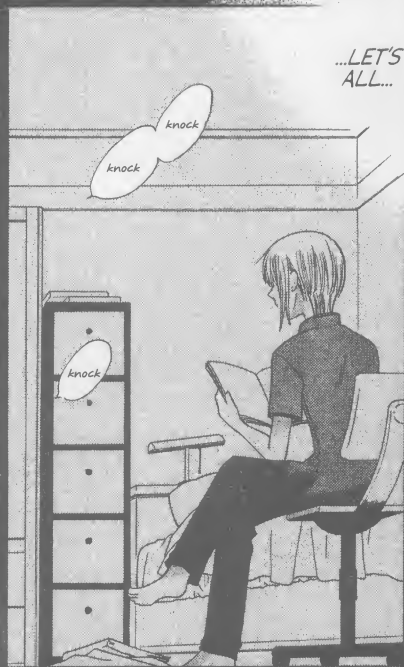
I THOUGHT  
YOU MIGHT  
BE AWAKE.

...LET'S  
ALL...

knock

knock

knock





THAT IS...

AND SO...  
THAT'S  
WHY...



IS SOME-  
THING  
WRONG?

UM...



...SOME-  
TIMES...

I... I GET...

...ANXIOUS,  
TOO...



...IN A PLACE  
THAT FEELS  
LIKE HOME.

I-I DON'T  
KNOW HOW  
TO EXPLAIN  
IT, BUT, UM...

OH, UM, NO, UM,  
IT'S NOT LIKE  
THAT WAS OUT  
OF THE BLUE!



Let's all  
eat soumen  
together!!

HUH?



THERE'S A LEGEND  
THAT SAYS IF YOU  
EAT PINK SOUMEN,  
YOU'LL BECOME A  
PERVERT!!

WHAT'S  
THIS?! OH  
NO, KYO-  
CHAN!

IS NOT!!

Kyaah!  
He's a  
pervert!  
He's a  
major  
pervert!  
Everyone  
run!

SO  
VULGAR...

DON'T YOU  
BELIEVE HIM,  
DAMN RAT!!  
HE'S MAKING  
IT UP!

I'LL  
KILL  
YOU!!!

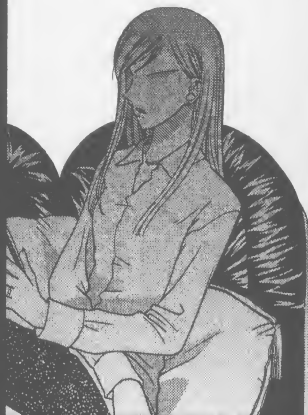
## Chapter 47





"SO WHAT IF  
YOU ARE A  
TOOL?"

"SO WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING?"



---

#### **UL-SPE BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 4**

The reason Aaya is wearing long sleeves is to protect against sunburn. He's the type that sunburns easily. Hatori's probably the same way.

---





GOOD  
MORNING.

MON FRÈRE  
MAGNIFIQUE!!

UP, UP, LITTLE  
BROTHER! IT IS  
CERTAINLY TIME  
FOR A CHEERFUL  
SONG TO SWEEP  
YOU SONOROUSLY  
INTO A WONDERFUL  
NEW DAY!!

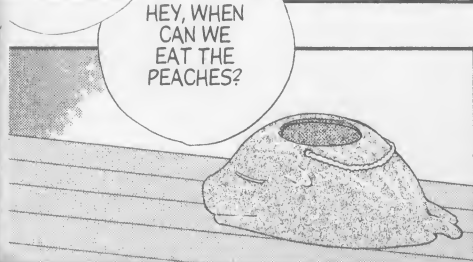
Today  
could  
REALLY  
SLEEP

I DON'T KNOW IF  
IT'S SURPRISING OR  
EXPECTED THAT  
YUKI IS ACTUALLY  
AN OVER-SLEEPER.  
BY THE WAY, I'M THE  
TYPE WHO SLEEPS  
WHEN HE WANTS TO  
SLEEP AND WAKES  
WHEN HE WANTS  
TO WAKE!!

Aahh!

SHALL I PLEDGE TO  
SPEND THE ENTIRE  
DAY WITH YOU, NOT  
LEAVING YOU FOR  
A MOMENT?!

AND THUS WE  
LEARN NEW THINGS  
ABOUT EACH  
OTHER, ONE BY ONE!  
I'M SO TOUCHED!



EAT, EAT! YOU  
MAY CAREFULLY  
PARTAKE, WHILE  
SHOWERING  
ME WITH YOUR  
THOUGHTS OF  
GRATITUDE!

NOW!

THANK  
YOU SO  
MUCH!

LAST TIME  
I BROUGHT  
CRAB...

...SO TODAY I  
THOUGHT I WOULD  
HUMBLY OFFER  
YOU PEACHES!

I told you...

YES!

slap  
slap  
slap

DON'T WORK  
HONDA-SAN  
LIKE THAT!

PEEL THAT  
PEACH THAT  
I MIGHT SHARE  
IN THE SWEET  
GOODNESS!

FASTER,  
FASTER!  
THAT'S IT!

Most  
terrible.

HEARING YOU  
SPOUT THAT  
SELF-CENTERED  
LOGIC WITH THAT  
SMILE MAKES  
ME SICK.

IT CAN'T BE  
HELPED! IF I  
PEELED THEM  
MYSELF, MY  
HANDS WOULD  
GET STICKY FROM  
PEACH JUICE!



# Fruits Basket 8: Part 5

Continued...

I really liked the "Shadow Hearts" music, so I bought the soundtrack, too. (I know why...) I especially like the battle music. Now I even listen to it while I'm working. But, oh... that Judgment Ring theme goes around and around inside my head...



I was relieved when I beat Atman. I'm playing the sequel, too.





I'm  
infuriated!

WHAT'S  
THIS? AND I  
WENT TO ALL  
THE TROUBLE  
OF MAKING IT  
CONCISE!

THAT'S TOO  
CONCISE. I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND!!

YOU ARE  
INDEED A  
SPOILED  
FRERE. IN  
THAT CASE...

WHAT ARE  
YOU TALKING  
ABOUT?

SHOULD  
I BRING A  
PRESENT?

THAT HAS  
ABSOLUTELY  
NOTHING TO  
DO WITH  
ANYTHING!!

WHAT,  
WHAT?  
WHAT ARE  
YOU TALKING  
ABOUT?

HAVE YOU  
EVER FALLEN  
IN THE BATH?

WHATEVER  
IT IS, JUST  
FORGET IT!! I'M  
BUSY ENOUGH  
AS IT IS!!

WAIT! I  
PROMISED  
I WOULDN'T  
LEAVE YOUR  
SIDE TODAY!



THAT...

...

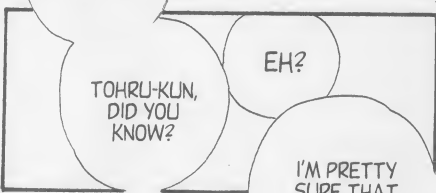


Don't follow me!

THEY LEFT...

Heh heh heh...

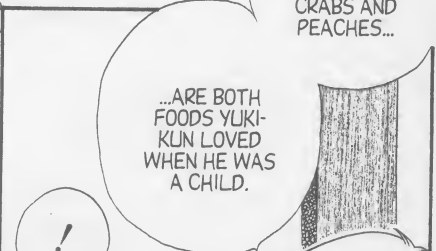
HOW TERRIBLE.



TOHRU-KUN, DID YOU KNOW?

EH?

I'M PRETTY SURE THAT CRABS AND PEACHES...



...ARE BOTH FOODS YUKI-KUN LOVED WHEN HE WAS A CHILD.

!



Po f t



THAT'S...



Boys who are quick to yell don't get any peaches.

I don't want any!

IT WOULD BE NICE...

...IF THAT GOT THROUGH TO YUKI-KUN, WOULDN'T IT...

...AYAME-SAN?

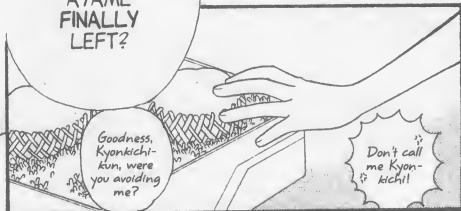


THAT'S SO THOUGHTFUL!

AT ANY RATE, IT WOULD BE BETTER IF HE STARTED BRINGING FOODS THAT YUKI LIKES NOW.

Aaya must not know any.

SO THAT AYAME FINALLY LEFT?



Goodness, Kyonkichi-kun, were you avoiding me?

Don't call me Kyonkichi!



IT'S SO HOT TODAY...

sigh...



I NEED TO HARVEST THE EDAMAME\* SOON.

\*green soybeans

I ALMOST FORGOT.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! WHO ON EARTH BESIDES MYSELF WOULD PROTECT YOU IF YOU WERE TO RUN INTO BANDITS?!

THERE ARE NO BANDITS HERE!!

I CAN'T LET ANYONE FOLLOW ME!

ANYWAY, I'M GOING TO A PLACE THAT ONLY HONDA-SAN AND I KNOW ABOUT.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT IS VERY HOT INDEED!!

I TOLD YOU... DON'T FOLLOW ME!

BESIDES, NII-SAN, DON'T YOU GET WEAK IN EXTREME HEAT AND COLD?!

IT'D BE A PROBLEM IF YOU TRANSFORMED AND FAINTED!!

For me.

IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT, LITTLE BROTHER!

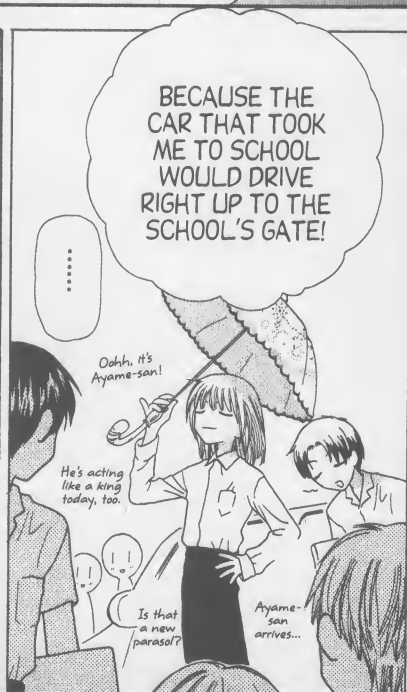
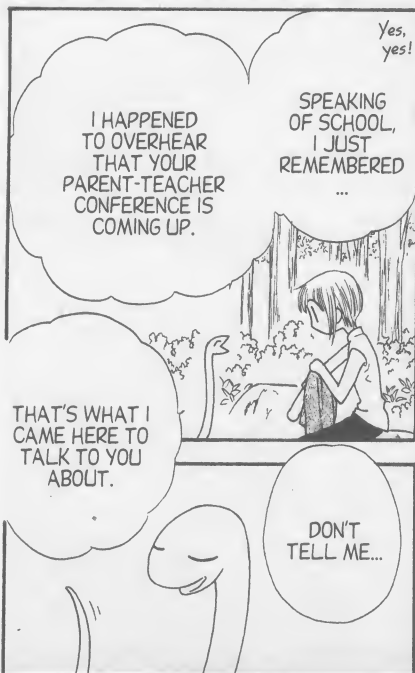
I'LL WRING YOUR NECK!!

YOUR LOVE NEST...

...IS IT?







I swear

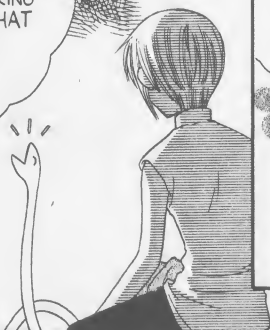


wasn't on purpose

WHO WAS IT  
THAT LET HIM  
OVERHEAR...

SO AS I TRIED TO  
ASK BEFORE, AM I  
EXPECTED TO BRING  
A PRESENT IN THAT  
SITUATION?!

WOULD IT BE  
APPROPRIATE  
TO BRING A  
BOUQUET OF  
ROSES?!



C'est  
vrais!

YOU WANT TO  
GO INSTEAD OF  
OUR PARENTS.

THAT'S  
IT EXACTLY!  
THAT'S AMAZING,  
YUKI! ARE YOU  
PSYCHIC?!



...OR WANT  
ANYTHING  
FROM THEM.

IT'S NOT  
THAT I  
DON'T LIKE  
THEM...

I JUST  
DON'T EXPECT  
ANYTHING  
FROM THEM...

BUT YOU  
AREN'T IN  
TOUCH WITH  
THEM, ARE  
YOU?

DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT IT...  
I'LL JUST  
ASK MOM  
AND DAD  
TO GO...

AND YOU AREN'T  
THAT FOND OF  
THEM TO BEGIN  
WITH, ARE YOU?





I DON'T  
KNOW...

...IF I  
COULD  
TAKE  
THAT  
AGAIN.

STILL, IF  
I CALL  
THEM...

...FOR  
SOMETHING  
LIKE A PARENT-  
TEACHER  
CONFERENCES  
...

...THEY  
MIGHT TRY  
TO TAME ME  
AGAIN.



I...I  
HATE IT.



AT  
THIS  
POINT...

...I NO LONGER  
HAVE ANY  
LOVE...

...FOR THE  
PEOPLE WHO  
SOLD ME FOR  
THEIR OWN  
PROFIT.

IN THE PEOPLE  
WHO SOLD ME,  
LIKE I WAS A  
TOOL.

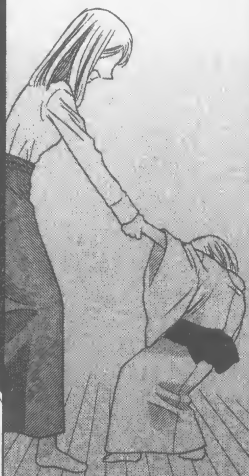


"YUKI!"

"I'LL HIT  
YOU!"

"CUT THAT  
OUT!"

"WHY ARE YOU SO  
DISOBEDIENT?"



I WISH...

...THAT  
I COULD  
SAY...

...THAT  
I WAS  
BETTER  
THAN  
THAT.

"YUKI."



BUT I  
TOO...

...WOULD  
HAVE SOLD  
YOU...



...IN  
EXCHANGE  
FOR  
SATISFYING  
MY OWN IN-  
DULGENCE.

"DON'T  
TELL  
ME..."




"STOP IT,  
ALREADY."

"HE'S  
YOUR  
BROTHER  
AAYA!"

AND THERE  
WERE MANY  
INDULGENCES.

"HAVEN'T  
YOU HAD  
ENOUGH?"



"...YOU'VE  
FORGOTTEN  
HIS NAME?"

ABANDONED  
THEM.

I WAS SO  
FOOLISH.



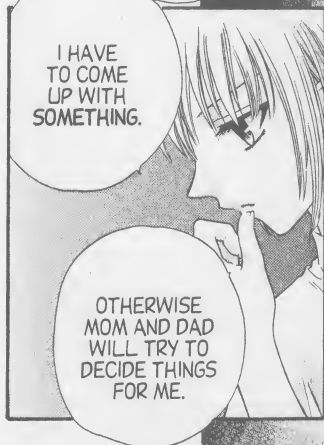
I HURT  
MANY  
PEOPLE...

"I'M SO  
STUPID..."

"THERE  
ARE..."

...PEOPLE  
LIKE  
THAT."

TRAMPLED  
THEM.



I'M NOT  
SAD. I'M  
DOWNRIGHT  
PATHETIC.





WERE YOU  
LISTENING  
...

...TO A  
WORD I  
SAID?

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO  
IS TAKE ME TO THE  
PARENT-TEACHER  
CONFERENCE IN PLACE  
OF OUR PARENTS!!

I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT I WANT  
TO DO

ALLOW  
ME TO DEBRIEF  
YOU ON A  
WONDERFUL  
PLAN!

...ABOUT  
WHY I CHOSE  
THIS LYRICAL  
PROFESSION  
OVERFLOWING  
WITH FANTASY!

OH, IN  
THAT CASE,  
I SHOULD BE  
PREPARED  
TO TALK...

IT'S  
OKAY  
...

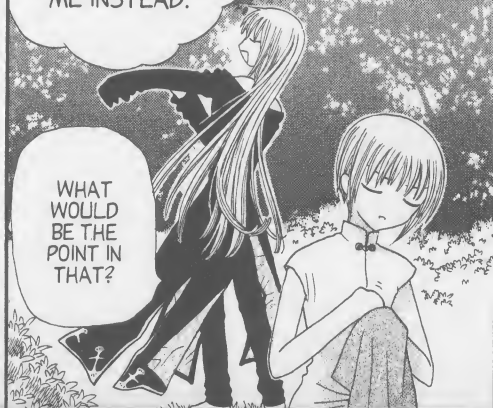
It's  
because--

No  
need for  
concern!

IF I GO, THEN IT  
DOESN'T MATTER  
IF YOUR GOALS  
ARE DECIDED  
OR NOT!

IN FACT,  
PERHAPS IT  
WOULD BE  
EASIER IF WE  
JUST DISCUSSED  
ME INSTEAD.

WHAT  
WOULD  
BE THE  
POINT IN  
THAT?





I WANTED...

...TO CREATE  
SOMETHING.

EVEN I,  
WHO HAVE  
A CHARISMA  
THAT WAFTS  
OF NOBLE  
REFINEMENT  
...



ANYTHING.  
IT DIDN'T  
MATTER  
WHAT.



...TO TRY  
MAKING  
SOMETHING...



Ha  
Ha  
Ha  
Ha  
Ha

...HAVE TIMES  
WHEN I LOSE  
CONFIDENCE!

AND  
SO I HAD  
THIS UNCON-  
TROLLABLE  
URGE...



I JUST WANTED  
TO MAKE SURE  
THAT I HAD THE  
POWER...

IT JUST SO  
HAPPENED  
THAT DRESS-  
MAKING SUITED  
ME BEST.

...TO MAKE  
SOMETHING.

AT FIRST, IT  
DIDN'T MATTER.  
IT COULD HAVE  
BEEN COOKING OR  
GARDENING.

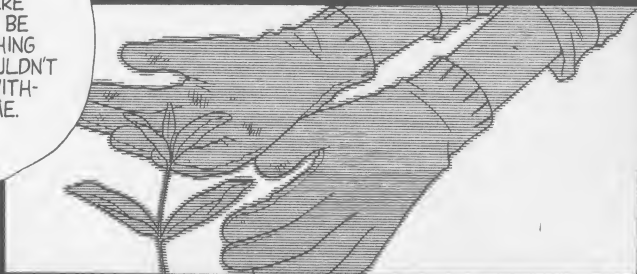


...WITH MY  
OWN HANDS.

...IF I COULD  
CREATE  
SOMETHING  
TANGIBLE...

MAYBE I  
WANTED TO  
KNOW...

IF THERE  
COULD BE  
SOMETHING  
THAT WOULDN'T  
EXIST WITH-  
OUT ME.



...BY SOME-  
THING...

...THAT  
WOULDN'T  
EXIST WITH-  
OUT ME.

MAYBE I  
WANTED...

...TO BE  
NEEDED...



IT'S ALL  
RIGHT.

YOU  
ARE NOT  
A TOOL.

BUT WHAT'S  
MOST IMPORTANT  
REALLY IS YOUR  
FEELINGS.

I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHAT OUR  
PARENTS  
WILL SAY.

YUKI...

...AS YOU  
THINK YOU  
ARE.

...ISN'T AS  
ALONE...

IF SOMEONE  
LIKE ME...

...CAN HAVE  
SOMEONE  
WHO IS  
THERE FOR  
ME...

...THEN  
SURELY A  
GOOD KID  
LIKE YOU...

THERE...

FINISHED.

I HAVE  
EXPRESSED MY  
PURE VOW IN  
TANGIBLE FORM  
THAT AT LEAST I  
WILL ALWAYS BE  
THERE FOR YOU!

THAT'S NO  
REASON TO  
EMBROIDER  
WEIRD THINGS  
ON PEOPLE'S  
CLOTHES!

THERE ARE BUT  
**THREE PEOPLE**  
IN THE ENTIRE  
WORLD WHO CAN  
COMPLETE SUCH  
FINE EMBROIDERY  
IN SUCH A  
SHORT TIME!

put it on  
forthwith!!

WHAT HAVE  
YOU DONE?

OF COURSE,  
NUMBER ONE  
IS **YOURS**  
TRULY, WHO  
ALWAYS  
THINKS  
OF HIS  
BROTHER!!

YOU'RE THE  
NUMBER ONE  
IDIOT!!

YOU REALLY  
ARE QUICK TO  
ANGER, YUK!!  
IT'S JUST  
PART OF YOUR  
CHARM!

...BE AN  
IDIOT...

YOU  
MAY...

BUT, NII-  
SAN...

NII-  
SAN...



...YOU'RE A  
FOOL.

...BUT I  
DON'T  
THINK...

DON'T  
REPORT EVERY  
LITTLE THING  
TO HATORI!!

HELLO,  
TORI-SAN!!  
YOU'RE NOT  
GOING TO  
BELIEVE WHAT  
YUKI JUST  
TOLD ME!

IT'S  
SUCH A  
WASTE.



...GO ON LIVING  
WITHOUT  
REALIZING...

...THAT YUKI  
REALLY IS  
A GOOD KID.

IT'S SUCH A  
WASTE. OUR  
PARENTS...

AH HA HA!  
AH HA HA  
HA HA!!

IT'S MY  
PLEDGE!

AH  
HA  
HA  
HA!!!

What  
is this?!  
THIS  
embroidery!!

AS  
YOU WISH,  
I SHALL  
EMBROIDER  
"I LIVE FOR  
KAGURA"  
FOR YOU!

THERE IS  
NO NEED TO  
HESITATE! I AM  
IN THE HIGHEST  
OF HIGH SPIRITS  
TODAY!

YOU CAN'T SAY  
SOMETHING SO  
SERIOUS AFTER  
ALL THAT  
LAUGHING!

THIS  
EMBROIDERY IS  
OVERFLOWING  
WITH YOUR  
BROTHER'S  
LOVE, SO TAKE  
GOOD CARE  
OF IT.

DON'T SEW  
ANYTHING!  
DON'T COME  
NEAR ME! DON'T  
TOUCH ME!!

I don't  
want it!

HELL  
NO!

EH?!

AS LONG AS  
I'M FEELING SO  
GENEROUS, SHALL  
I EMBROIDER  
SOMETHING FOR  
TOHRU-KUN AND  
KYONKICHI AS  
WELL?!

Of course,  
of course!

THE  
PEACHES ARE  
DELICIOUS,  
AREN'T THEY?

HM?  
YEAH...  
THEY ARE,  
AREN'T  
THEY?

SHEESH  
...

bicker  
squabble  
bicker



**STOP  
THAT!!**

YOU...

...ARE NOT  
A TOOL.

...ANYMORE.

YOU'RE  
NOT  
ALONE...

## Chapter 48





### UL-SPE BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 5

While I drew Kyo saying, "Why are you so scared?" I kept thinking, "Why aren't *you* scared?" Haunted houses are *really scary*! They're no good. I can't stand them.



**EVERYONE!  
LET THE FUN  
BEGIN!**

ENJOY  
YOUR SUMMER  
BREAK TO THE  
FULLEST.

**IT'S  
SUMMER  
BREAK!!!**

*And  
do your  
home-  
work.*

I FEEL SO  
GOOD I COULD  
SMASH A CAR!  
UURAAHH!!

Th-  
**THAT'S...!**

I WON'T GIVE A  
DAMN ABOUT  
STUDYING!!

I'LL PLAY!!  
I'LL EAT, I'LL  
SLEEP, I'LL  
DO MY PART-  
TIME JOB!

IT'S GREAT  
TO BE ON  
VACATION!

ARISA...  
WILL YOU  
CALM  
DOWN A  
LITTLE?

Sing! Dance!

Make  
noise!



HANA-JIMA-SAN...  
Y-YOU'RE  
LEAVING  
ALREADY?

HA!

urk!

ALTHOUGH  
I CAN UNDER-  
STAND YOUR  
EXCITEMENT  
ABOUT SUMMER  
VACATION...



OF  
COURSE...

Ah!  
BUT  
HANA-JIMA-  
SAN! THE  
SCHEDULE  
FOR SUPPLE-  
MENTARY  
LESSONS IS  
POSTED IN  
THE HALL!

Shouldn't  
you  
copy it  
down?

SEEING YOU,  
I CAN'T HELP  
BUT COOL  
DOWN.

WHAT DID  
YOU SAY?!

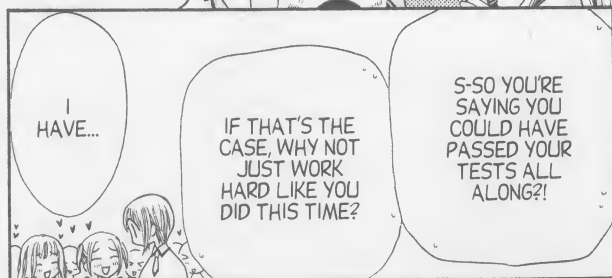
I HAVE NO USE  
FOR SUCH A  
THING...

I DID NOT GET  
A SINGLE RED  
MARK.



Fruits Basket 8:  
Part 6

"Sakura Wars 3" was fun. (Is this a late topic too?) I was obsessed with Erica. She's so cute with her good morning dance! Paris is great too. The "Sakura" series always has mini-games; this time there were lots of hard ones, and the hardest one was Erica's. (Of all things...) It would be nice if I could be better at mini-games and other action stuff. Why am I so bad at them...? (I don't know.)





**I SEE!!**

...BUT AT  
THE END OF  
THE DAY, I  
REALIZED...

...I DON'T  
FEEL  
LIKE IT.

**BUT--**

THE BEGINNING  
OF SUMMER  
VACATION...

... IS VERY  
EXCITING,  
ISN'T IT?!

YOU REALLY  
ARE SIMPLE.



YOU DON'T  
THINK OF  
YOURSELF  
AS SIMPLE?  
I'M SHOCKED.

HOW AM I  
SIMPLE?!

WHAT AN  
INSULT. BEING  
CALLED SIMPLE  
BY A TRUE  
SIMPLETON...

OH, HONDA-  
SAN. SHIGURE  
SAYS HE'S  
NOT GOING  
TO BE HOME  
TONIGHT.

*He forgot to tell you.*

DON'T  
IGNORE  
ME!!

*She  
left  
early*

AH?

SHOUGAYAKI\*...

UH, UH,  
um, well,  
let's see!!  
WH-WHAT  
SHOULD we  
Have for  
dinner?!

Ah!

FIGURE OUT  
THAT TAKING  
EVERY CHANCE  
FOR A FIGHT IS  
WHAT MAKES  
YOU SIMPLE,  
STUPID CAT.

DON'T RUN  
AWAY AFTER  
PICKING A  
FIGHT, DAMN  
RAT!

\*shougayaki: grilled pork with ginger



AH!

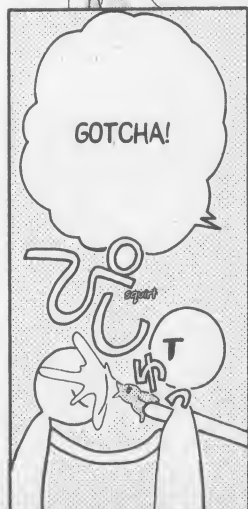
TSUHARU-  
SAN...?

daze

I WOULD  
LIKE SOME...

...  
SHOUGAYAKI.

WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING?



GOTCHA!

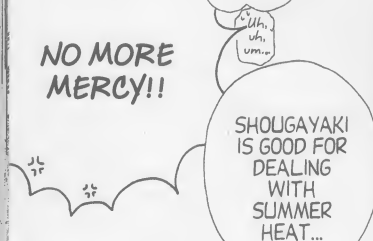


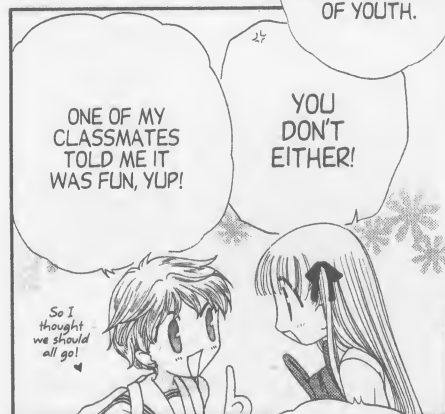
JUST  
COOLING  
OFF, EH?

TO ME  
IT'S JUST  
LOOKS  
CREEPY.

You zoning out under  
the sprinkler.

IT'S  
REFRESHING  
...







# HAUNTED MANSION

It's frightening!

It's terrible!

IT REALLY DOES LOOK FUN!!

Uwaa!



NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT...

THAT'S A...!

I'm hungry



LET'S ASK EVERYONE IF THEY WANT TO GO IN BEFORE WE GO IN.

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, SQUIRT.

I'M SO EXCITED!

HONDA-SAN...FOR EXAMPLE.

LET'S GO!!

かしら







I'M L-L-  
LAUGHING,  
SEE... HA HA  
HA...!!



LAUGHTER  
WILL BLOW  
AWAY MY  
FEAR!!

SHE'S  
REALL Y  
PUSHING  
HERSELF...



IF IT'S TOO  
MUCH, YOU  
CAN JUST  
LEAVE! HEY!!



HYAAAAH!!



YOU'RE NOT  
GIVING UP  
YET?!

I CAN'T GIVE  
UP NOW. I'VE  
COME TOO  
FAR!

IF I WALK  
WITH  
MY EYES  
CLOSED...!

HONDA-  
SAN...

YOU'RE  
WHAT'S  
SCARING ME...

I'M  
SCARED!!

I'M...



HONDA-SAN...  
YOU REALLY  
SHOULD KEEP  
YOUR EYES  
OPEN...

B-  
BUT...

THIS  
WAY, IT'S  
A LITTLE  
LESS  
SCARY.

I KNEW  
IT...!!

TOHRU?!

wham

IT'S NO  
GOOD. AT  
THIS RATE...

...SHE'LL  
DIE!!

From  
running into  
things.

W-where  
is the  
path?

ooooooooo!  
spoooooky!

EEK!  
WHAT'S  
THAT?!

IT'S...

THERE'S NO  
POINT IF THE  
SOUNDS ARE  
GOING TO  
SCARE YOU!!

...ALL  
...

Whack!

BAMI



さあ ああ ああ ああ



**HUH?**

**HOLD  
MY HAND,  
TOHRU!**

**I'M NOT  
STUPID OR  
VULGAR!!**

**AND YOUR  
VULGARITY.**

**ANYWAY,  
I CAN'T STAND  
LOOKING AT  
YOU. WHY DON'T  
YOU JUST  
LEAVE?!**

**HONDA-SAN,  
ARE YOU  
OKAY?**

*You look  
worn out...*

**Y-YES...  
JUST  
BARELY...**

**SHUT UP,  
BRAT!  
JUST GO!**

**WHADDAYA  
MEAN. "TSK-  
TSK"?!**

**BUT IT'S  
TRUE...**

**YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
LET YOUR  
FIGHTING GET  
IN THE WAY  
OF HELPING A  
GIRL IN NEED.**

*Tsk, tsk!*



FOR  
EXAMPLE,  
THAT  
PERSON...

HE LOOKS  
SCARY, BUT...



...HE'S  
ACTUALLY  
A FINE,  
UPSTANDING  
YOUNG MAN  
WHO LIKES  
ANIMALS AND  
COOKING.



IF YOU'RE  
THAT  
SCARED...

...WHY DON'T  
YOU CREATE  
YOUR OWN  
SETTINGS?

HUH...?



BUT EVEN  
SUCH A MAN  
CAN HAVE A  
MOST GRIEVOUS  
PAST...



WOW...  
REALLY?

GROWING UP, HE  
WAS THE GUY  
THAT ALL THE  
GIRLS WANTED  
TO MARRY. BUT HE  
HAS ONE FLAW-HE  
IS EASILY MOVED  
TO TEARS.

ON SUNDAYS,  
HE EVEN  
VOLUNTEERS  
FOR COMMUNITY  
SERVICE.

REALLY...?



HER GENTLE  
HANDS... GENTLE  
VOICE... THE  
TEARS THAT  
WELLED UP IN  
HER EYES...

IT WAS POURING  
RAIN THE NIGHT  
IT HAPPENED.  
SHE PULLED A  
SWEATER OVER  
HIM, ONE SHE HAD  
KNIT FOR HIM  
HERSELF.

...HE WAS  
SEPARATED  
FROM HIS  
MOTHER.

WHEN HE  
WAS TEN  
YEARS OLD...

REALLY?!

THAT WAS THE  
LAST IMAGE  
HE HAS OF HIS  
MOTHER.

THE NEXT  
MORNING, SHE WAS  
GONE. ALL THAT  
WAS LEFT WERE  
HIS DRUNKARD  
FATHER, A HUGE  
DEBT, AND THE  
SWEATER.

BUT HE  
REMEMBERED HIS  
MOTHER'S TEARS  
FROM THAT NIGHT,  
AND NEVER HELD  
IT AGAINST HER.

...ALL  
THE WHILE  
CLUTCHING  
THE SWEATER,  
FRAGRANT WITH  
HIS MOTHER'S  
LOVE...

AND  
SILENTLY,  
HE WORKED  
FOR HIS  
FATHER TO  
REPAY THE  
DEBT...

ooooAH!  
bounce



AND  
THAT  
DAY HAS  
FINALLY  
COME.

SHE'S HERE  
TODAY TO  
SEE HER LONG-  
LOST SON.

REALLY?!



spooooooky

WHAT ARE  
YOU GUYS  
DOING?



O  
A  
A  
H!

...DREAMING OF  
THE DAY WHEN  
HE WOULD BE  
REUNITED  
WITH HER.

...



LET'S HAVE THE  
MOTHER EXPLAIN  
THE REST.

...BUT NOW, SHE  
HAS COME TO  
TELL HIM SHE  
REGRETS HER  
ACTIONS.

HIS MOTHER  
HAD HER  
REASONS  
FOR LEAVING  
THEIR HOME...

AN EMOTIONAL  
MEETING.



**DON'T BREAK THINGS!!**

WHAT  
THE HELL  
WERE YOU  
THINKING?  
HOW THE  
HELL ARE  
WE GOING  
TO EXPLAIN  
THIS?!

YES...VERY  
TOUCHING.

WHAT  
A NICE  
STORY.

AND  
THEY LIVED  
HAPPILY EVER  
AFTER.







I'VE JUST  
GOT A  
HUNCH...

...THAT  
SOMETHING  
IS SPECIAL  
IS GOING TO  
HAPPEN.

IT'S  
STRANGE...

DOES  
SUMMER...

...DO THAT TO  
PEOPLE?



IT'S  
OFFICIAL...

SUMMER  
BREAK IS  
HERE!

I'M SO  
EXCITED!

ME TOO,  
ME TOO!

THIS  
FEELING...

Yes!

LET'S GO TO THE  
BEACH AND SET  
OFF FIREWORKS  
AND SMASH  
WATERMELONS!

AND CATCH  
BUGS!!

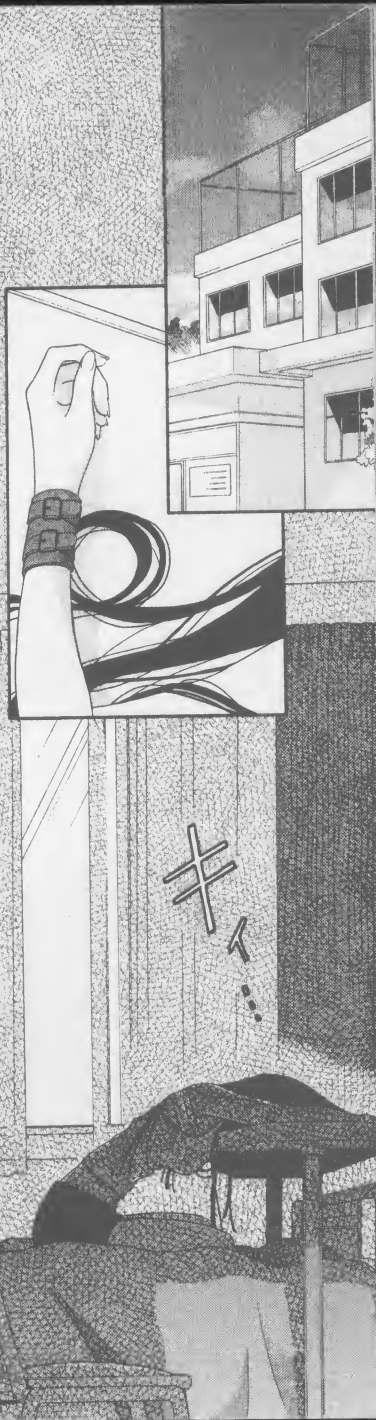
YUKI AND  
EVERYONE  
CAN COME,  
TOO!

munch

munch

.....







NOW...

GURE-NII\* IS  
ALL I HAVE  
LEFT.

I'M SURE  
THEY'RE  
HAPPY TO  
BE RID OF Y--

HIRO.

I KNOW...

NOW...

*\*Gure-nii: "Big brother Shigure"*

...

YOU WON'T  
GIVE UP,  
WILL YOU...

...RIN?

IT WON'T  
BE EASY...

...BUT...



WHO...



...WOULD  
GIVE UP?





I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHAT TO  
CALL IT,  
BUT...

...SOME-  
THING IS  
SPREADING  
THROUGH  
MY CHEST.

...UP  
TO MY  
THROAT.



...TRYING  
TO COME  
OUT.

I HAVE A  
FEELING.



I'LL NEVER  
GIVE UP.



I HAVE A  
FEELING...



A FEELING  
THAT I JUST  
CAN'T...

...PUT INTO  
WORDS.

To Be Continued in Volume 9

Next time in...

# Fruits Basket



9

Mitsuki Tokayo

## Sizzlin' Summer Lovin'...

Finally--summer has arrived! While Tohru struggles through bipolar days of hope and anxiety, what will happen when Yuki comes face-to-face with the new member of the student council?! And...is Uo-chan crazy in love?! Who's that she's hanging out with?! Plus, Hana-chan's past is finally disclosed in a bonus feature! Come join the party in the 9th volume of the super-popular *Fruits Basket*!

**Fruits Basket Volume 9**  
Available June 2005



# Year of the Dragon: Hot Headed



However, success is not necessarily a needed outcome as the very experience of trying is reward enough for a Dragon. Naturally softhearted, Dragons should be careful to not let themselves become too vulnerable by being too trusting of others.

Women born in this year are noble without exception and never submit to pressure when they have the chance to outshine another individual—especially men. Females tend to be quite practical in their clothing choices as they hate being restricted—meaning they shy away from tight and flashy and go for loose and comfortable. Love for a Dragon comes from the very bottom of their heart and is the kind that is sincere and the truest of trues.

## Celebrity Dragons:

Sandra Bullock  
Courteney Cox  
Shannon Elizabeth  
Colin Farrell  
Melissa Joan Hart  
Teri Hatcher  
Haley Joel Osment  
Reese Witherspoon  
Maleficent (Sleeping Beauty)

## Dragon

**Years:** 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012, 2024, 2036

**Qualities:** Intelligent, Enthusiastic, Softhearted, Lucky, Imaginative

**Grievances:** Bossy, Loud, Flamboyant

**Suitable Jobs:** Politician, Priest, Artist, Film Director

**Compatible With:** Rat, Snake, Monkey, Rooster

**Must Avoid:** Dog, Sheep

**Ruling Hours:** 7 AM to 9 AM

**Season:** Spring

**Ruling Month:** April

**Sign Direction:** East-Southeast

**Fixed Element:** Wood

**Corresponding Western Sign:** Aries

At first glance, the dragon is by far the most mysterious of all the animals of the Chinese Zodiac, and the one most up to interpretation as to what the dragon is. A Komodo Dragon might come to mind for a Westerner, but *Fruits Basket* takes a very Eastern view by having Hatori Sohma transform into a Sea Horse, literally "tatsu no otoshigo" or "dragon's child," showing a glimmer of the awe the creatures emit.

For the Chinese, who proclaim themselves "Lung Tik Chuan Ren" or "Descendents of the Dragon," these Dragons bring about good fortune and the year itself is a grandiose one full of ambition. This brave and energetic nature races ten-fold through the very core of anyone born under the Dragon's banner.

Dragons themselves are naturally healthy and loving individuals that are quite eccentric, but are easily excited and prone to stubborn outbursts. Dragons are pioneering individuals with their futures well thought out in advance.

\* Note: It is important to know what day Chinese New Year's was held on as that changes what Zodiac animal you are. Example: 1988 actually began on February 17 and anyone born before that date is actually a Rabbit.



# Year of the Ox: Beast of Burden



Men born in this year are highly impressionable and any scrap of unhappiness tends to leave lasting marks on their personality--especially where girls are concerned. Put an Ox up against a lady and they turn to mush, literally, on the spot--a stark contrast to their brash stubbornness to be sure.

On the other hand, women tend to be serious, but also neat and punctual. Their cooking is to die for and they are very loving and motherly. Perfectionists at heart, women born in this year try to turn a deaf ear on flattery, as the knowledge of a job well done is more than thanks enough in their eyes. A good deed though, never goes unpaid with an Ox.

## Celebrity Oxen:

Neve Campbell  
Adam Garcia  
Whoopi Goldberg  
Andy Lau  
Heather Locklear  
Frankie Muniz  
Jack Osbourne  
Sigourney Weaver

## Ox

**Years:** 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021, 2033

**Qualities:** Inspiring, Conservative, Steadfast, Dependable, Eloquent

**Grievances:** Methodical, Stubborn, Eccentric, Pierce Temper

**Suitable Jobs:** Surgeon, General, Hairdresser, Investment Banker

**Compatible With:** Snakes, Roosters and Rats  
**Must Avoid:** Sheep

**Ruling Hours:** 1 AM to 3 AM

**Season:** Winter

**Ruling Month:** January

**Sign Direction:** North-Northwest

**Fixed Element:** Water

**Corresponding Western Sign:** Capricorn

During the great race, the cunning Rat hitched a ride atop the Ox's head and jumped across the finish line at the last moment. To say the Ox was angry would have been the understatement of a lifetime. Oxen are unyieldingly stubborn and hate feeling opposed. In fact, the only thing they hate more is failing. For these reasons, people born in the year of the Ox are natural born leaders and powerfully successful ones at that.

While an Ox might seem like a scary person to go up against, they tend to be quiet, very patient of others and highly trusted. Much like Hatsuharu, Ox (or Cows, if you prefer) have a certain yin-yang type of duality to their personalities meaning they can be kind and calm at times and at others completely rude and arrogant. Nonetheless, they enjoy listening to others and usually take a friend or colleague's advice whenever given. Oxen are very orderly and strictly by-the-book when it comes to their jobs and chores.

\*Note: It is important to know what day Chinese New Year's was held on as that changes what Zodiac animal you are. Example: 1985 actually began on February 20 and anyone born before that date is actually a Rat.